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TWO CAVES.

BY HARVEY HOWARD.

There is a valley in the realm of Inde Which English dwellers call the "Vale of Wind;" The French, romantic, call it "Cave of Song," While with the natives 'tis the "Demons' Gong."

'Tis said that fearless travelers sometimes brave
The unknown monsters that infest the cave,
And enter in the narrow, rugged way,
O'erhung by rusty rocks so massive, gray,
And resolutely cold, that all beholders feel
A shuddering pain, as though the keen-edged
steel steel Were at their throats; and that when those who

wait
With breath suspended, prophesying fate
With breath suspended, prophesying fate
Swift and most doomful, growing weary, call
And ask if all is well, adown the wall
Their cries are echoed, like the mocking taunt
Of crazed demons who that valley haunt.

One time a youthful scion of a race
Of mighty kingsmen came unto that place,
And hearing tale of demon presence there
Where else was sweet and beautiful and fair,
He sought the cave, "to hear," he jesting said,
They told him that the moaning of the sea,
Further to eastward than the eye could see,
Sometimes was audible to keen-eared men
Who stood before the cavern door, and then
The demon's voice was wild and sharp and clear,
And could be heard within the city near;
But that when no air stirred the weak-voiced
wave

wave
Gave forth no sound, and then from out the cave
A gentle plaint was only audible.

The young prince gayly laughed to hear men tell Mysterious stories which themselves made plain, Unknowing, while they told. His laugh again Came outward from the cave, hollow and sad, Like him, who, joyously dissembling, yet is mad.

Before the cave a wild rose fragrance gave Making more gloomy the uncovered grave With all its sense of desolate distress. The prince plucked off one tiny bud to bless His after-journey with its fragrance sweet, And came his way, to have men tell his feat As wondrous venture.

As wondrous venture.

But there is a cave
Within the reach of life's great ocean wave,
More dire and doomful. From it all the song
That comes is song of siren; and as long
As man's existence has its cavern been.
Would you its name? It is the Cave of Sin.
Men pass the wild-rose romance at the door
And enter in the blackened walls, no more
To come without. In vain their maddened yell
And cries for help. Their feet take hold on hell.
And him I count a kingsman who descries
The shapes of death beyond the scented prize,
And, taking it, reveals in all its dread
The orying valley of the ruined dead!

Vials of Wrath:

THE GRAVE BETWEEN THEM.

BY MRS. MARY REED CROWELL AUTHOR OF "TWO GIRLS' LIVES," "LOVE-BLIND," "OATH-BOUND," "BARBARA'S FATE," ETC., ETC.

> CHAPTER V. LUCIFER.

FRANK HAVELSTOCK had received Mr. Lexington's telegram in a few minutes after the messenger had left Tanglewood with it. His valise had been ready packed, as he confidently expected such a summons from his cousin; while the cart-load of trunks in the baggage-room of the hotel were in perfect readiness to be forwarded without delay.

A smile illuminated his face as he read it, carelessly, after handing the hall-boy a quarter for his services.

And so I am wanted at Tanglewood? for what, I wonder? to congratulate the noble pair on the final bridging of the chasm that has yawned between them so many years? or to still occupy my position of nearest friend and confidant of my cousin?"

He rolled the dispatch into a taper, stuck it into the gas jet that burned constantly for such a purpose, and lit his cigar.

He called a carriage, and gave the orderto the 23d street pier, that he reached in time

It was a pleasant trip up the Hudson to Tanglewood, and in the couple of hours or longer that Havelstock sat in his camp chair on the after deck, with his handsome feet crossed on the railing of the guard, and his Panama hat jammed over his forehead, he had ample time to arrange his intentions and marshal them in fighting array. His impression was correct—that Georgia and Mr. Lexington were still unreconciled, and being as he had been, so long on confidential terms with his cousin, consequently knowing his state of mind regarding his wife, Havelstock was aware of the fault in the case being Georgia's.

Such being the state of affairs-and he guessed it exactly-he was perfectly satisfied, for such a condition at Tanglewood was the very one he most wanted. It was his grand object in life to keep Theo and Georgia apart, by any means in his power, now that they had created a gulf between themselves.

He knew his chances of succession to the wealth and position he coveted depended entirely on the fact of Lexington's dying childand while there was a flaw in the nature either of Mr. Lexington or his wife, on which he could work, by which inflame one against the other, the while maintaining his innocence in the matter by pretending friendship to them both, Frank Havelstock made up his mind to devote all his energies to his treacherous task-for Tanglewood at the end If the two had become reconciled—then, his chances had collapsed suddenly; but he would not believe so.

He sprung from the boat to the rustic land-



"See how I, your injured wife, humble myself before you, craving the love I never should ask for!"

him—that is, when there was the slightest probability of such being the case. Of course there were times when Frank Havelstock would have liked no eyes on his conduct—but now, conscious of his good appearance, his polished ease, his undoubted position in the house whither he was going, he sauntered toward the grand entrance, without so much as a glance toward one of the dozen windows, yet feeling that, in nine chances out of ten,

there were bright eyes watching him come. Not Georgia's-he knew her too well for took it for granted there were guests at Tanglewood, young lady guests, who nad, perhaps, been apprised of his coming.

went on, therefore, rung the bell, gave his card to the hall porter, and for the first time in several years crossed the threshold at Tanglewood, on which he had such a cautious eye, for whose inmates he entertained such sinister designs.

It was a stroke of his peculiar policy to inquire for Georgia, and the footman brought "Mrs. Lexington would see him in a few

Possibly five minutes passed before he heard the rustle of her skirts on the stairs as she descended, and swept over the mosaic inlaid flooring of the large, imposing hall, out of which the grand saloons on the lower floor

disarm Georgia of the prejudices he knew ex-

"My dear Mrs. Lexington-the first familiar face I have seen since my return to America. I need not ask how the years have dealt with you-you are well and happy. Thank God for that!"

He had taken her hand and pressed it a moment warmly. His voice was frank, ardent; his language unexceptionable; but when he had caught a glimpse of her radiant face, that he had never seen but in gloomy shadows for so long a time, his heart misgave him, and while he inwardly cursed the probability that her happiness arose from the fact of her friendship with her husband, his false lips framed the thankfulness they made almost profane by uttering.

But, it somewhat disarmed Georgia; she

smiled—a little sadly, as she answered 'You are very kind, Frank, and I will con fess I am surprised to hear such good wishes from you. Yes, I am well, and—am pleased

to see you." She hesitated; her natural candor forbidding her to utter the fashionable falsehood of welcome. She glanced into Havelstock's face. and saw his well-simulated expression of considerate anxiety. His bold eyes looked more honest, more frank than she ever had seen them, and there was a little womanly pity in her heart for the man who had no living relative save her husband to welcome him from a perilous journey. WHe had been a faithful folower of her hushand's, too, amid all sorts of danger and privations, and had been a companion in loneliness, if not a friend-her heart was already softening and widening under the ing, built for the private use of Tanglewood influence of the love she was going to offer her and its guests, with a speed that betrayed to husband on the morrow—and so, excusing any

himself his eagerness for the scene of action. He only slackened his pace, and appeared, as he generally did, the elegant gentleman of leisure, when he was fairly in range of the facade of windows, with their gay awnings outside and floating lace curtains within.

It was second nature to him. This constantly acting as if some one's ever were on stantly acting as if some one's ever were on stantly acting as if some one's ever were on stantly acting as if some one's ever were on the stantly acting as if some one's ever were on the stantly acting as if some one's ever were on the stantly acting as if some one's ever were on the stantly acting as if some one's ever were on the stantly acting as if some one's ever were on the stantly acting as if some one's ever were on the stantly acting as if some one's ever were on the stantly acting as if some one's ever were on the stantly acting as if some one's ever were on the stantly acting th

grave patience.

"Mrs. Lexington, I believe you mean what you say, when, after a second's consideration, you tell me you are glad to see me. I thank you for it; I will endeavor to be worthy of your friendly welcome."

"I think I mean it, Frank," she returned, "To be more candid still, I was sorry I learned you were coming, because-because—with such trouble between my husband and I—and fearing you were not a friend of

mine, I-I-' She paused, in shy silence.

Havelstock's heart gave a wild thrill of delight at her chance words; then, after all, they were yet unreconciled! he was in time! and, more fatefully wonderful still, he was winning Georgia Lexington to his side!

What more could man ask? But with all this wild elation of thought, not a vestige of his triumph was visible on his face, or in his

"You do not mean to tell me I must retract my congratulations on your reconciliation to your husband? Mrs. Lexington, surely you will not pain me with such unwe news? You looked so bright, so radiant, when you entered the room, and I knew my cousin came from Africa for no other pur

He bent a grave, questioning face to hers. He arose to greet her with an undemonstrative, candid warmth that was best suited to all the ardor of her passion shone, then they vailed themselves under the fringing -lashed

> "It is my fault, Frank-all my fault. I was so proud and relentless and hardened by his absence. But—I am sorry now!" It was exquisite—her girlish confession, ut-

tered with a shy, proud fondness that made Havelstock wonder if mortal man could resist such persistence. Certainly not Theo Lexington, and he resolved to be doubly on the alert. You will forgive me if I speak very plain-

ly, Mrs. Lexington, and tell you, if you have repulsed your husband's overtures, you have done a cruel deed. If you had heard all he said to me, seen his impatience to get home, known his positive certainty that you would receive him as his heart craved, then you could appreciate the force of your act." Georgia's face was averted, but he saw the

quiver of her scarlet lips.
"You are his friend, Frank—do you think he will overlook my harshness, and-andtake me back?"

Her voice fell to a delicious murmur; Havelstock could hardly believe this was the haughty, imperious woman he had known for years. "Certainly he will-assuredly he will-if you are prepared to go humbly and acknowledge your fault. Lexington is as proud as you are."
"I know it, and I am afraid he is angry,

and will refuse me." She lifted her pleading face, so fair, so eloquent, and Havelstock swore an oath that it should not stand between him and Tanglewood if he could annul its pure influence.

He looked just a trifle grieved and troubled, and drew his hand thoughtfully across his "It is just possible that Lexington-barely

and of events that was to bind in most pitbus serfdom.

He met her critical, intense gaze with quiet,

He met her critical, intense gaze with quiet,

He met her critical, intense gaze with quiet,

steadfastness and honesty on his countenance. Her conscience accused her of her biased judgment, her severe decision against himloyal friend of her husband's, who had followed him through part of a dangerous journey simply and solely because of the ties that bound them. She had heard of strong friendships between men, but this was simply poetical in

its disinterested faithfulness. She reproved herself that, in all those early years when she so needed a friend, and Frank Havelstock had been available, she had treated him so coldly that his self-respect had forbid den him to intrude upon her oftener than cold courtesy demanded. She remembered now that, like a true gentleman, he had never re-sented her conduct, but endured it patiently, as an unjustly accused man, strong in his own truth, would do. She had regarded him as an enemy, without the least evidence of his treachery, except the instincts of her own

heart—her poor, torn, tempest-tossed heart. But now, she saw such bliss ahead, that in its contemplation she could have forgiven her greatest enemy, much less this man whom she had misjudged, whom she now had the chance of appreciating as he deserved.

broke the thread of her reverie, that he had followed by the mirrored expressions on

"If you will send me up to Lexington's rooms, now?" She rung for a servant, to escort him, and

retired to her own apartments. While Havelstock followed his lead, with a perfectly Satanic expression on his features, that would have petrified Georgia with horror had she seen it.

> CHAPTER VI. LUCIFER'S WORK.

HAVELSTOCK went through the immense lower hall, that was one of Tanglewood's greatest attractions, that strangers from abroad had frequently come to see, and gone away impressed with the idea of the perfection of arch-

itectural beauty and grandeur. It was immensely wide, with superbly inlaid flooring, and extended through the entire depth of the house, from which at one end was the grand entrance, with its walnut and plate lass doors, with solid silver handles and sills, that shut off the large, square vestibule, with its elaborate hat-racks, and high-back, crimsondamask cushioned, gothic chairs, where the hall-porter passed his time, between admitting guests and admiring his livery. Beyond this again, were the massive outer doors, that opened directly upon the marble floor of the many-pillared piazza, that extended across the entire front of the house, and on which were spread, at intervals, thick Persian druggets,

stic chairs, and camp-stools. Within the hall, on either side, were doors opening into the spacious apartments. On the right, the state drawing-room occupied the entire length—a gorgeous saloon, whose adorning had cost enough to keep a modest family a lifetime. It was seldom used, there being so many

other accommodations for guests.

Opposite the drawing-room was the smallest room in the house—a ting reception-room, with one window, furnished in quiet elegance of style, in a rich wood-brown, with lighter brown satin drapery. Here all visitors waited, while the hall-porter sent their cards, or mes-

sage.

Connecting with the reception-room were the double parlors, one upholstered in light-blue satin, with drab puffings, the other in scarlet, relieved by black. A carpet of white ground, with a brilliant Persian pattern, covered both floors so velvety and high-piled that the foot sunk into it as if it had been yielding

A high archway divided the rooms, from which depended heavy lace curtains, and a row of slender Corinthian columns, of tinted marble, extended the entire length on either side. Three mirrors at each end, with bay-windows on both sides at the rear, that made delightful little retreats when the lace curtains were let down. At the back end of the hall, a large

let down. At the back end of the hall, a large oriel window extended to the roof, in the center of which was a door to pass through. At one side, opposite the stairs, was the elevator, to the dining-rooms, or above.

The stairs were wide, easy of ascent, with gilded balusters, at the foot of which a large statue held the gas-jets—a statue that matched in size and beauty the others that were ranged in niches between the doors.

in niches between the doors.

Havelstock went through and past all these appliances of luxurious wealth, and up the velvet-covered stairs, with a wild thrill of ex-citement as he thought it was decidedly within the range of probability that it would all be his one day, if he kept his own counsel and wrought his own plans.

He liked it-his taste was æsthetic in many respects, and it gave him keen delight to be surrounded by just such things; and as he tap-ped at his cousin's door he recorded his oath to leave no stone unturned, to stem undaunted every adverse storm and tide, to stop at nothing that would help him secure his ends.

Lexington's servant opened the door—a faithful, devoted man, with a head of white hairs, a man who had followed his master's fortune during all those years of exile.
"Good afternoon, Robbins. This is better

cordiality that denoted the warmth of his affection.

"Welcome to Tanglewood, although I did not hope to be so agreeably surprised to-day. Robbins, just attend to Mr. Havelstock's valise, and see if his room is in readiness. You may tell Mrs. Lex-Frank interrupted him.

"He need not take that trouble. I have paid my respects to your wife already.

Robbins went out, and Frank seated himself in a large swinging chair that Lexington in-"You see I am making myself perfectly at

home, Frank,"

His voice was bitter, and Havelstock was not slow to perceive the weary, disappointed expression on his face. "It is good always to make the best of

everything. You are certainly very comfort-

He glanced around the room in which they sat, the front room of the suite, that opened upon a second story balcony at both sides. The windows were partly open, and the sweet, fresh breath of the summer afternoon was gently swaying the fluted lawn curtains.

It was a delightful "den" for a luxurious gentleman, like Lexington or Havelstock, with its lounging chairs, its sofa, its elegant desk. and tables for chess, cards, or possibly a tete-a tete lunch. A dark, bright carpet covered the floor, a chandelier swung from the ceiling, and a cigar-case, a small dressing-case, and a match-safe ornamented the marble mantel-

Looking over his shoulder, Havelstock saw the central room of the suite was the bath and dressing-room, and beyond he saw the dainty appointments of the bed-room, with its walnut suit, mounted with gilt, its snow-white toilet appurtenances, its foamy lace curtains.
"Very comfortable, but, somehow, I don't

see any signs of a woman's presence Havelstock looked inquiringly at Lexington, over whose face darkened the shadow already

on it. "These are my rooms; Georgia's are opposite. We are not reconciled, Frank." There was woe enough in his simple lament to have touched any heart less callous than

Havelstock's; his fairly leaped with joy. "Not reconciled, after all! Lexington, from my soul I pity you." He gave him his hand, that the husband

grasped and pressed tightly, as if there was sympathy in the touch.
"You know how I felt, Frank, as well as I

do. How I came thousands of miles for but one purpose-to beg her forgiveness and commence my life again. I implored her by every tie we had known to forgive, forget and come to me; but-but she rejected me in scorn, in coldness, in contempt."

His tones were mournful, and he dropped Havelstock's hand and pressed his own over

"It has unmanned me, I must admit, Frank. It was such a shock, and—isn't she perfectly glorious? I never loved her so madly in all my life as in that one moment when I pleaded with all my heart. Love her? I love her as no lover ever worshiped before. I love her with a passion that shames my boyish affection into silence.

Havelstock's face wore an expression of

deepest concern.
"I wonder where the trouble lies? Lexington, if Georgia should come to you, and ask you to forgive her, and beg for your love and

favor, what would you do?"

It was his feeler, this question that would further decide his plans. He put it cautiously, with the air of a man who yearned to do his friend the favor suggested.

A perfect glory leaped to Lexington's eyes. "Can you ask me what I would do? I would let her say all she would, because it would fairly intoxicate my senses to listen and then I would take her in my arms and seal my pardon with kisses, and no one should ever come between us again.

His voice fairly trembled with eagerness Havelstock felt a possibility, for the instant, of defeat, but he kept his ground well. 'You are the most generous man I ever

knew. You love well, Lexington."
"Generous? You call an act of justice generous? You think you measure my love by an act like that? If you do, Frank, you haven't the remotest idea of how I worship my beautiful wife. Do you know, if I thought there was one chance in a thousand I'd cross that corridor to her room and go down on my knees to her and beseech her to love me?

Lexington's splendid face was all aglow, and Havelstock had difficult work to effectually sustain his wrath, his fear.

"I admire such devotion; the woman is fortunate, indeed, who can inspire such. But, Lexington, I am sorry to feel it my duty to remind you of it; but you can hardly expec that, after years of silence, after the terrible way you wronged her regarding her first marriage, after the curt way you announced your arrival, you could hardly expect a woman of Georgia's spirit to act other than she did. She is proud enough to resent what she regards an insult: and Lexington, for the honor of the family name, for the sake of your peace of mind, don't allow her pride to exceed yours. Resent her insult to you, humble her if ever she gives you a chance, and, my word for it, once she finds you are not the humble suppliant at her feet, she will yield readily. Is it possible you have made woman a study and do not know this?"

Lexington smiled faintly. "I have not made woman my study, Frank, except Georgia. I have thought, at times, perhaps it would be the true way to win her,

"It is the only way. I have studied wo man closely, and I venture to wager the successful end of this war between you will depend upon your generalship."

"If I thought it-if I knew it," Lexington said, slowly. "Granted you don't know, will you tell me what you hope to gain by going on in this

way? I desire greatly to see you and your wife on the right terms. I will use all my influence on both of you to bring about the desirable consummation, for your sake particularly.' He was so in esrnest, so kindly interested

and Lexington trusted him implicitly.
"I feel that I need advice," he went on, just a little sadly, "and you are the one to

give it. I want you to answer me one question—one question, Frank, as truly as you know how, regardless of the pain the answer may give me. Will you?"

Havelstock started in half suspicious alarm.

What could Lexington mean? "You may depend upon a truthful answer

from me," he said, quietly.
"It is this—only this. Honestly, Frank,
do you think Georgia cares for me—or—or—

is her heart buried with her former husband, Carleton Vincy, the father of her little dead baby?" Havelstock drew a long breath of positive relief: then, with a perfectly simulated shadow

of pain on his face, averted it slightly, then, the window, where he remained standing silently, with his back to his cousin. The effect was produced precisely as Havel-

His silence, his trying to stock had hoped. hide his true feelings, made an impression of vague anguish on Lexington.

Speak out, Frank; I know what you want to keep me from hearing—say it; I can stand

Then Havelstock turned sadly around. "I would have given a thousand dollars had you left that question unasked. I promised my answer, and I am a man of truth, whatever pain the truth costs me. Lexington, I Georgia has ceased to care for you. had it from her lips not an hour ago. Do you wonder now at my advice? Oh, I dare not speak further. I can not, and Mrs. Lexington my hostess. Let me off, Lexington, I beg."

He seemed terribly agitated, but Lexington caught his arm, imperiously.

What is it? probe deep, Frank; I will live to thank you yet."

His eyes fairly commanded the answer. His face was ashen, and there was a shadow of a great woe on his splendid mouth.

"She is coming to you, soon, to make false protestations of penitence and affection. I could hardly understand her in my horror of her duplicity, but she hopes to gain some end she has in view. I think she intends to work on your one weak point, your passion for herand then, to have her revenge at length. It sickens me, Lexington, I will not speak further.

He looked so pitifully, resolutely at the man

whom he had so smitten.

Lexington bowed his grand head, and stag. gered heavily to the nearest chair, while Havelstock's eyes gloated evilly on him.

He raised his face, presently, handsome, haggard, proud and stony, as if hewn from

"I thank you for placing me where I can defend myself. I am proud, Frank, and I shall not forget who reminded me of it. Let her come, I will meet her as she deserves. Will you go to your room now, and dress? There are some young people here who would be happy to have you join them at croquet, at five o'clock. I want to be alone, Frank, to ac custom myself to regard Georgia as the talse, designing creature I had learned her to be from your lips, that I can trust, if no one

And Havelstock went to his room, content with his first move.

CHAPTER VII.

THE SCORNED SACRIFICE. THAT day at dinner, Havelstock was introduced to the guests at Tanglewood, by Mr. Lexington, making, as he fully intended to his at the first glance, with a word of wonder-

ment in their depths. He was tenfold handsomer than his picture: and she noticed at the very first look she gave

him, how perfectly he was dressed, how courteous and unobtrusive his elegant manner was; and, with a half shy glance at Georgia, thought the chances had increased, that, possibly, this

Not that she was unwomanly, or reckless in her unbounded admiration of the man whose Spanish eyes had haunted her in his picture, ever since she and the other girls had een it in the album; only, she was an impres sive, ardent, heart-whole girl, and Frank Hav elstock, with her prejudices in his favor, be forehand, was a shrewd, gallant, lady's man, who had learned to perfection, his art of captivating hearts.

They were a merry party that played croquet, or danced in the parlor, or promenaded in the park, that sweet summer night. Mr. Lexington was in a new mood, since his interview with Frank, and he had come down to dinner, firmly decided as to the course he intended to pursue. And that was, not to let Georgia imagine, for a moment longer, that the refusal of her love had power to make him miserable. So he laughed and talked, now with one, now with another; he played chess with Mrs. Hammond for his partner, turned the pages while Miss Reynolds played an opera, and then, when Ida Wynne declared Mr. Havelstock should give them the music for a redowa, he went over to Georgia, who was quietly chatting with Mr. Hammond, and asked her to dance with him, with as much elaborate, hollow-hearted politeness as the stranger of half on hour's acquaintance would have solicited the honor.

A second of dizzy, rapturous delight, when her eyes glanced timidly in his, that were simply raised in courteous expectation, and Georgia gave him her hand, warm, trembling.

He felt the slight thrill in her fingers, as his hand closed lightly, indifferently, over them; he noticed the dainty shrinking, for a second, of her form as his arm touched her waist, and he thought, bitterly, what a deep woman she was, thus to preface her later dramatic performances with these little touches that she intended oubtless, should strengthen her position.

While Georgia, trembling with ecstasy, excused him for not pressing her hand, or resting his arm more familiarly around her waist, cause she had been so cruel, so cruel to him It was right that she should sue to him, as she had promised herself to do, on the morrow.

So the night went on, every hour of which was further separating the husband and wife; every moment of which was bringing pinkest flushes of happiness to Ida Wynne's cheeks as she met the undisguised admiration in Havelstock's eyes. At eleven, the little party broke and Havelstock bade Ida "good-night, and pleasant dreams of—" in such a way that her foolish, girlish heart bounded for an hour after she had gone to her room.

Every one had gone up-stairs but Georgia, and she, in the rush of her thoughts, was walking to and fro on the gleaming marble balcony feeling that sleep would never visit her that night.

She had looked wondrously fair that evening-she was saintly now, in the bright moonlight that fell, in one unbroken sheet of silver radiance, the full length of the piazza.

Her dress was of black-a silken tissue, of thick, heavy threads, that were lustrous and rich in texture. At the wide sleeves that fell back from the beautiful arm, were ruchings of snow-white blonde; at the neck, that wa cut a trifle low in front, another filmy quilling, eneath which was a heavy golden chain of long, massive links, from which depended a large cross of diamonds-that matched the small crosses in her ears. Narrow gold bracelets clasped her arms; a wide, gold-colored sash was artistically draped from her waist and in her splendid hair nestled a tiny blue lace bow, pinned fast to the lustrous braids by a round, button-like hair-pin of gold.

She had looked well, and she had wondered. more than once, if Theo had thought so. Now, he had gone to his room, and she-she was waiting for the morrow with an impatient eagerness that lent a strange, love-lit glory to her blue eves

She walked slowly to the furthest end of the long piazza, her hands clasped before her, her head drooped on her breast. She passed the barred windows of the silent, darkened parlors, and then, just as she came abreast the open door, Mr. Lexington stepped out. He retreated a step in surprise, then laughed.

"I had no idea I should see any one. It is so warm, and I am not used to such early

How grand he was! How sweet a charm he lent the simplest words he uttered! Georgia stood where she was, listening to his voice, al-

most hungrily. "We have become accustomed to so little dissipation at Tanglewood that eleven seems But I was indisposed to sleep to-night. She looked at him, shyly, as she said it. "I hope you are not ill, Mrs. Lexington.

He said it with an elaborate courtesy that would have chilled her had her own heart been less ardent.

"I am not ill, Mr. Lexington; I am onlyonly-"

She had almost made her confession ther paused, with a sudden shiver of doubting fear. Should she? dare she? why shouldn't she tell him, now-here-in the soft moonlight-in the silence of the summer night, whose influences might be so favorable?

A wild thrill of her passionate, yearning heart; a catching of her breath, and then-then—she cast the die that settled her fate! " Theo !

She uttered his name for the first time since his return; her voice was tremulously sweet, with a shy timidity in its low tones, blended with tenderest entreaty. Her fair face was turned to his own, and he saw a lovely, yet proud, imperiousness on its perfect features. A gust of sharp pain crossed his own face, so white and impassive in the moonlight; a hea pang accompanied it, as he thought how fair and yet how false she was. The soft tones of her voice lingered almost pitifully on his ears; the only answer he gave was a slight inclination of his head, then a straight, steady look at her marvelously lovely face, with the thought how true a friend Frank Havelstock was always proving himself to be!

Georgia crossed the short distance that sepa rated them, and laid her hand on his-her warm, vitalizing touch thrilling him from head to foot.

A sudden luminous light of passionate love beamed on her face so plainly that it heralded her words. He saw it, and above the stern. sharp discipline of himself, there leaped into his eyes such a heart-hungry, weary pain, that Georgia told herself she might unbare ner very

"Theo! Theo! I have been so wicked, and make, a favorable impression on every one of I am so sorry! I am come to you, in such them, and being himself particularly pleased penitence, to ask you to forgive me and take am so sorry! I am come to you, in such me home to your heart! Oh, my husband, if you knew of all the pride I have conquered to take this step! If you dreamed, only, of how I love you, more, infinitely more this moment | The purp who's jest struck it richer 'n ary than even in our happiest days."

She was standing closely beside him now, her yearning eyes meeting his in an eloquence of passionful beseeching; her red lips parted, through which the tide of words had flowed her fair white throat beating, her breast heav ing with the agitation of the moment.

"Georgia-All he said was the one word, her name, but the tone struck the deathliest chill to her heart. Was it among the possibilities that he would deny her? The thought agonized herthis woman, who had endured silently for years and years; this woman to whom her husband's love was her very existence, late as the revelation had come.

She suddenly released her hold of his hand and, with a low, piteous cry, slid down on her knees at his feet, her glorious head bowed on her bosom, her hands clasped in mute humility

"See—see, Theo Lexington, how I, your injured wife, humble myself before you, craving the love I never should ask for! I tell you am suffering in spirit because I was so cruel to you-I tell you I am repentant-when I tell you—oh, Theo! I love you! I love you so I can think of nothing else! I would die here, at your feet, to give you a moment's happiness Won't you take me back again, and let us be gin a new, blessed life?"

Lexington stood like a statue while she spoke, while she poured at his feet the libation of her woman's love. His eyes took in her rare beauty, his heart throbbed in answer to all she had said. He could barely restrain himself; it demanded the strongest power of self-control he ever had combated with, to refuse himself the bliss of taking her in his arms

for once, forever, nevermore to be parted. But, Frank Havelstock had predicted this; Frank, in his purely disinterested kindness had shown him the way to walk to avoid being made a silly dupe of by the woman to whom he had humbled himself, and been spurned The memory of that scene would have faded forever in the glory of Georgia's eyes had not he been so sure of Georgia's acting, in this instance-in such perfect, accordant harmony with what Frank had led him to ex-

So, with an overbrimming chalice of happiness presented to his panting lips by Georgia's own hand, he turned away, in quiet, proud re-

"You do right to sue for my pardon, and I accord it freely, fully. Rise, Georgia, I beg. The floor is chilly.

Georgia heard his reply in a strange, vagu trance of amazed horror and despair.

Had he really spurned her—her?

She arose, quivering with excitement; her eyes dilated in bewildered anguish, her hands elenched in bodily pain; from her face all its beautiful enthusiasm had faded, leaving her pallid to ghastliness.

You—you refuse—me?" She gasped the words as if the full force of his conduct could hardly be believed.

"As you rejected me, I reject you. You have asked my pardon for spurning me this morning; you say nothing of your penitence for the treachery that, years ago, you commit ted. You need not rave of love—that is dead and buried—a grave is between us of a verity. Not the grave of Carleton Vincy's child-but the tomb of slaughtered affection.

Her head was proudly erect now; her nos trils faintly quivered in the heat of her wounded pride, her mortified womanhood. When she retorted, it was in a voice so icily clear and composed as to startle him, for the instant, by its contrast to her previous emo-

"I never shall forget this insult, never. You are right; there is a grave between us, and each of us will live and die on opposite sides. But remember-remember, Mr. ington, it is all over between us forever. When you repent of this hour—and repent you will-may a hundredfold of my anguish overwhelm you, and may you know what I know this moment—the despair of a broken

She tottered away, leaning on every chair or pillar she passed, until she gained the hall and went wearily to her room. (To be continued—commenced in No. 298.)

Pacific Pete, The Prince of the Revolver.

BY JOS. E. BADGER, JR., AUTHOR OF "OLD BULL'S-EYE," STONE JACK," ETC. "YELLOW

> CHAPTER XII. A LITTLE GAME OF "DRAW,"

ABOUT noon, on that same day, Old Busi ness declared his intention of paying Windy Gap a visit. Both Pike and Mark sought to dissuade him, declaring that it would be worse than folly to obtrude himself upon the notice of their enemies. We have seen how consis tent Mark was; but then he had an unusually fair excuse for contradicting himself.

You fellers don't look at the thing in a judgmatical light," quoth Old Business, quiet-"Who knows anythin' about our doin's, last night? Nobody 'cept the ones we licked in the fust place—an' you kin bet they won't squeel on tharselves-an' the pardners o' the boy I wiped out. They might git me lynched, fer revenge, but in doin' it they'd lose all chaince o' sharin' in my 'pocket'—so you see

'tain't no great resk I run, a'ter all." Whether he really placed faith in this rather dubious safeguard or not, Old Business entered Windy Gap with the careless ease of one who has nothing to fear. If he noticed the gaunt figure of Hank Hurley shadowing

he made no sign.

him.

What his object was in entering the town, can only be surmised. He stopped at the Metropolitan Hotel and took a drink at the bar, leisurely surveying the half a dozen cus tomers who were lazily lounging around the rusty, cold stove, discussing the opening night at the Golden Horn. Neither the subject nor the talkers appeared to have any interest for the old hunter, and paying for his drink, he

strolled down the crooked street. After a rapid but close scrutiny of Pacific Pete's building-now closed, even to the heavy wooden shutters—Old Business entered the Hole in the Wall. Apparently the Sabbath day never crossed that threshold. Though undoubtedly it was a day of rejoicing for "Orleans Jess"-the dark, quadroon look ing keeper—it certainly was not one of rest.

Not only the sports of Windy Gap, but many miners from claims for miles around, congre gated here every Sabbath day, to enjoy a drunk." and to double or lose their week's

earnings across the poker-table. "The sweet-scentedest crowd I've struck sence I 'tended church in St. Louey!" approvingly remarked Old Business, taking a leisure ly survey of the assembly. "Gentlemen, this is me-Old Business in a minnit, you bet! whelp in ten counties! Step up an'

nominate your pizon. I b'long to the church, but I'm goin' to git drunker 'n a b'iled owl

this deal, you kin jest go your pile on that!"

Many a more polished address has been delivered, but certainly none more successful than this. As one man the crowd advanced, the majority caring only for getting a free drink, but a few interchanged rapid but intelligible glances, as the ragged hunter drew forth a heavy pouch of golden nuggets and 'beans," bidding Orleans Jess help himself.

"You're new to these parts, I reckon, stranger?" observed Vinegar Sol, a tall, sharpfaced man in a rakish hat and flashy suit of

"Not edzactly. I was here when Dick's Pocket was fust struck. I lost sight of a pard, an' tuck in this run, thinkin' mebbe he'd lered the big rush. His name in the States was Dick Austin—a tall, fine-lookin' critter you'd take 'im fer a gospel-slinger at fust sight, he was so 'ligious.

There has been no reward offered for information concerning his whereabouts, I dare say," half inquired a little red-faced manthe same whom the reader may have remark ed on the occasion rendered memorable by the "little argument" between Pacific Pete and

"Not that I knows on, but-" and Old Business produced from the depths of his rags a nugget of almost virgin gold, nearly the size of a hen's egg. "You see this? Waal, I'll give that to the critter who kin tell me anythin' sartin 'bout my man."

I claim the reward, then," eagerly cried the "bummer," his eyes sparkling. "You spoke of Dick's Pocket a moment since. Well, your friend was the discoverer-

"You don't mean—"
"But I do. Gospel Dick we all called him, because he was never seen without a Bible and he delivered some excellent sermons, too. Then he was robbed and lost his mind-be came a lunatic, in fact, and roamed far and wide, searching for the man who had mur-dered him (that's just the way he expressed it) and stolen his gold. You know how he discovered the 'big pocket'—but he was dead when found. Very likely he never knew that he was dying upon a bed of almost solid

gold.' "But the proof-how kin I tell that this is

ny pard?" I knew him before his injury—I saw him pefore he was buried, and was allowed to keep this key-check as a memorial of my departed friend," replied the bummer, handing Old Business a small silver check, bearing the name, "J. R. AUSTIN," then adding: "My name is Horace Walpole Dobbs. You can ask any of these gentlemen as to my veracity.

They all know me." "You kin trust him in anythin', stranger, cept whar whisky is consarned," testified Or-

Old Business passed the nugget over to Horace Walpole Dobbs, without a word. There was a grave shade upon his usually rollicking face that evidenced how keenly the information had touched him. The miners and "sports" noticed this fact, and with a consideration scarcely to be expected, returned to their respective tables and resumed their

But the old hunter was not one to long remain bowed down, and his face soon resumed its wonted look of reckless good-nature, as he strolled around the poker-tables, now comnenting upon a hand-of course after the deal was over-and interspersing his remarks with queer expressions that caused all anger at his criticisms to vanish before a hearty laugh, now watching the game in silence.

"You 'pear to be pritty well posted on the pasteboards, old man," at length remarked Vinegar Sol, who, by-the-by, had been playing a miserable hand ever since Old Business came in. "Ef you're good on the draw as you air on the talk, I reckon you'd be a tough cuss at poker. Yit I don't mind tryin' ye a turn or two, jest to pass the time."

"Young man, look whar ye gwine," responded Old Business, with a ludicrous nasal twang. "The trail afore ye is crookeder 'n the horns o'a ten-year-old ram, an' kivered all 'long with sand burrs, nettles, prickly p'ars, an' pizon tarantulers o' 'tarnal death a-waitin' to ketch you by the heel an' tote you down to the kitchen whar fire an' brimstone is plentier nor crawlin' critters on a Ute buck. 'Pent, sinner, 'pent -- 'pent afore the devil calls' ye, fer then it'll be too late. You ne ver ketch him holdin' less 'n four aces, wi hafe a dozen more safe in the crook o' his tail, ready in case you ring in a' 'Arkansaw deck on 'im. Whar's the use in buckin' ag'inst a critter as is al'ays shore to overdraw ye? Ye boun' to lose—an' what then? Oh! you pore mizzable sinner-you blind, two-legged sho e o' moral raggedness which don't got no more nse than to keep a-rootin' 'long the trail which leads down to never come back ag'inlook on this picter, an' then ax me ag'in to jine you. You boun' to lose-what then? What does the good book say? Don't it say the devil 'll jump your claim? Jest think how ye'll feel down thar-you settin' on a sharp-p'inted stone which is white hot, a-eatin' b'ilin' brimestone with a red-hot scoop shovel while the boss devil stan's over ve 'casionally stirrin' ye up wi' his forty-tined pitchfork! How's that fer high, anyhow?"

"Ef you wasn't so powerful ugly, durned it I wouldn't bet big money on your being a woman, your tongue runs so pesky nimble, retorted Vinegar Sol. "But what say? You ain't afeard to take a little turn at 'draw?"

"Me afeard? You don't know me, bossnot much! Thar's only one 'bjection. I'n little old lightnin' on the draw-I'm sure to bu'st every critter I play with. Can't help it—the keerds will run that-a-way, anyhow. It's good enough for me, but, somehow, t'other fellows don't like it so well. That makes hard feelin's, ye see-"

"What a feller wins in these parts I reckon he's fa'rly 'titled to," grinned Vinegar Sol. "Ef we win, good enough; but ef we lose we ain't the boys to squeal-not much!"

"You're the kind I like to meet, pard-but you'll play kinder light at fust, won't ye? Don't run the old man too hard?" quietly said Old Business, taking a seat at the table on the side opposite the door.

A four-handed party was quickly made up, and the bystanders interchanged smiles of keen amusement as the game opened. Vinegar Sol. Keno Dan and Billy Breeze had, for years, divided the honors of being the "boss poker players" in the Valley Mines. Yet, as the game progressed the match seemed more even. Either Old Business possessed a power of man-ipulating the cards little short of marvelous, or else, as he said, he was a prime favorite of fortune. Though in reality it was a match of three players against one, the pile of gold lying before the old man seemed never to shrink beneath its first dimensions, while it was often more than double its first value. The bystanders were enthusiastic. Never before had they witnessed such a perfect exposition of the beauties of "draw." But the game

was to end without either party gaining a de-

cisive victory.

A quick, firm tread at the door drew all eyes in that direction, and the crowd silently made way before the bar. The new-comer was Pacific Pete, and his white, hard-set face, his glittering ey's and compressed lips, betokened a dangerous mood. He took a quick survey of the crowd, then, in a sharp voice ordered, rather than requested them to join

Pacific Pete was not a man to be lightly refused at any time, much less now, when he was already "boiling over," as the expression runs. He had just come down from the hills, where Mark Austin had so coolly bluffed At the entrance Old Business looked up, then

still quietly running over his cards. "You heard me invite all hands?" sharply added Pacific Pete. "I pass, pard," quietly replied Old Business, never raising his head. "I b'long to the

pulled the shabby hat further over his eyes,

and when his comrades arose in haste he was

-can't drink on Sunday." "And yet you play poker—what 're you giving us, old man? Come, be sociable; you'd

better join us." There was a sharp, metallic ring in his voice, that made the crowd instinctively draw aside, leaving a clear space between the two.

'Thank ve, kindly, fri'nd, but I ain't on it "I think you'd better join us!" and a double

click accompanied the words, as Pacific Pete drew a revolver.
Old Business raised his head sharply and pushed back his slouched hat. The light shone full upon his countenance, and the gamblers started as they observed the change. It was

as though a mask had suddenly been torn from his face. With a sharp cry Pacific Pete shrunk back as though he had been dealt a mortal wound. One quick leap and he left the room,

"The critter looked sick—reckon the cramps tuck 'im," quoth Old Business, calmly, as he sat shuffling the cards.

CHAPTER XIII.

"WILL YOU WALK INTO MY PARLOR?" MARK AUSTIN'S reception by Eli Brand was anything but cordial—was, in truth, almost insulting, as he ordered Edna to her room. At any other time Mark probably would have retorted in a manner more striking than agreeable; but now, though his finger itched and his cheek flushed, he bowed politely and passed into the bar-room. In some cases the best safeguard a man has is a pretty daughter.

Mark appropriated one of the heavy, straightbacked wooden chairs, and, leaning against the dingy, smoke-stained wall, lighted his pipe. Thirsty mortals passed in and out, but their coarse talk and loud voices did not disturb the young miner. A faint smile played around his lips, and a soft light filled his eyes.

That he was thinking of Edna Brand may be accepted as a fact. It was wonderful how accurately he could recall every word of their conversation together. But the words that he remembered most distinctly were these, spoken just before they entered Windy Gap:
"I will be at the deadwood tree next Sunday, or, if anything prevents, I will send you

a note in time.' The dingy lamps had been burning for over an hour, night had descended upon Windy Gap when Mark Austin was aroused from his

reverie by the sound of his name. Glancing quickly up he saw a gigantic figure leaning across the bar, in conversation with the keeper. As the latter nodded across the room the giant turned quickly, and Mark Austin recognized the huge negro who had acted as doorkeeper at the Horn of Plenty.

"Your name Massa Mark Austin, sah?" asked the negro, as he stepped forward, respectfully uncovering his round, bullet head. "That's my name—yes. What's wanted?" "Dis yer letter meant for you, sah.

was to please read it 'mejiately, missee say. With these words, which sent the hot blood leaping into the young miner's face, the negro produced a tiny note, carefully enveloped in a bit of white silk

Mark gazed curiously upon the inscription, written in a delicate running hand, the paper exhaling a subtle, delicious perfume. The name was his, and, satisfied at length that there was no mistake, Mark broke the seal.

"Mark Austin, Esq.:—
"Dear Sir:—Please suspend judgment until you hear my reasons for thus addressing you—almost an entire stranger. Believe me, they will prove a sufficient excuss.

ficient excuse.

Will you kindly grant me a brief interview? I mot rest until I set myself right in your estiman.

You promised me my revenge last night, tead, grant me this favor—believe me, 'twill not Itom from set me this favor—believe me, 'twill not soon be forgotten.

"The bearer—trustworthy in every respect—will conduct you to me. "In true friendship,

Mark read the note twice over before he could bring himself to believe there was no mistake. Then he turned to the negro and

ISABELLA.

"You are sure this note was intended for me?" "Yes, sah. Missee p'inted you out when you kem up de street wid lady. She say she got 'tickler business wid dat gemman-meanin'

'It sounds honest enough," muttered Mark. half aside, "and I have more than one enemy, it seems. It may be a snare—look here, friend, I'll go with you, but no tricks on

travelers, mind.' "You t'ink it a trick, massa, me go tell Missee Bella you t'ink she settin' trap fo' you," quietly replied the black. 'Easy, boy-don't be quite so impatient. Your mistress is the lady I saw at the Horn of

Plenty, last night."

The black nodded assent. Though scarcely less puzzled than before, Mark quickly decided to follow the saventure up and see what was beneath it. At his motion, the black led the way along the street, and respectfully held the door of the Golden Horn open for Mark. Passing through the vesstibule, across the now deserted and gloomy gambling room, and touching a secret spring in the wall, the black spoke for the first time since leaving the

"Massa, please go up dem sta'rs, turn de knob o' de do' on de left, den enter. Missee Bella say she wait dar."

In obedience to the spring, a narrow door glided open, until then ingeniously concealed, a narrow flight of carpeted stairs were revealed, and after a momentary hesitation, Mark slowly ascended them, despite the cold chill that crept over his frame as the secret door closed behind him with a muffled click. Yet, knowing that retreat was cut off, Mark kept a hand upon his ready revolver, halfexpecting to behold some blood-thirsty enemy burst through the wall at every step. no treachery was intended, why so much mys-

The dim light of the hanging lamp revealed

MATURDAY ADURNADO -E-3>

the door knob, and turning this, Mark quickly but noiselessly pushed the door wide openthen stood like one petrified.

Was he dreaming—had he fallen asleep only to awake in some enchanted land? Surely this could not be real-in rude, uncouth Windy

A subdued light filled the room. The warm air was delicately perfumed—the very light and atmosphere of love. The room was richly upholstered; the floor covered with a velvet pile; the walls concealed by curtains of rose colored silk; rich paintings were upon the wall; at the further end of the apartment stood a richly curtained bed; all this Mark took in at a glance. But his eye rested longer upon the

one occupant of the apartment.

Upon a tete-a-tete half reclined the ladydealer of the night before, dressed in crimson and lace, as then, only, to the young miner's eyes, looking even more lovely now in the subdued light.

At that moment she glanced up and noticed him standing upon the threshold. Her face flushed deeply, as she half arose and beckened him to advance. Feeling a little abashed in his coarse clothes, Mark nevertheless obeyed and returned her greeting without visible

awkwardness. "You were greatly surprised at receiving my note, were you not?" softly uttered the lady, resuming her position and motioning for

Mark to follow her example.
"Indeed I was, lady—but at the same time could not help feeling pleasure at the thought

of your not having forgotton me."
"Very neatly spoken—and yet you have kept me waiting fully an hour," she laughed, softly. "But there—I did not send for you merely to exchange compliments. Mr. Austin, I believe that you are a gentleman. This may be our last—though I sincerely trust not—our last meeting, as it is our first, save that of last night. And now—since I have spoken of that—will you tell me frankly what you thought of my position then?"

That it was beneath you—that such a life must be horrible to one such as you-a lady,

slowly replied Mark.

"You wish to spare me—and I thank you." Last night I read your thoughts far plainer than I can now. Better for me, perhaps, had I never attempted to fathom them—had I only regarded you as one of the common herd-a gambler, with no higher thought than how to place a lucky stake. But we are all blind, sometimes; last night was my turn. sometimes; last night was my turn. From trying to read your thoughts, I—bosh! I feel as though I were dreaming! I can scarcely see your face now. You are not a con-

Mark muttered a dissent, not very intelligibly. He could fully appreciate the force of her remark. He too felt as though in a dream. The room, perfumed air, the weird light, the beautiful woman beside him, so close that her garments touched his, her wondrous eyes, now astrous, swimming in a languid yet burning light, her perfumed breath mingling with his, the soft, white hand, so warm and velvety, now resting lightly upon his wrist—all these combined might well have unsteaded a stronger head than his.

"You must be a Mesmerist—else why have you this strange power over me? No one else has the power to affect me so strongly-what is it? Tell me!"

Mark shook his head helplessly. It was all an enigma to him. Had he been a bystander, merely, he would have laughed and said: "Love-struck both of 'em—got it bad, too!"

"Listen," and the woman spoke rapidly, in a low tone, but full of expression and pathos. "I felt this power last night-when I first saw you, and that made me have you seated directly in front of me. I felt it growing stronger and stronger with every glance of your eyes, until it was only with a strong exertion of will that I could attend to my du-I only saw you, of all the players—I for you alone. You had never played dealt for you alone. faro before—the manner in which you plainly evidenced that. I dealt for you alone. The others might lose or win, I cared little; sional gambler does that, is it not a strong proof of interest? Bah! what matters that,

"I did not send for you to tell you thisbut to in part explain why you found me in such a position. You may not care to know -you may go away from here and laugh heartily over my folly—may even jest with your friends—"

"You wrong me, lady," warmly interrupted Mark. "What you confide to me, shall never

pass my lips." "I believe it-from the bottom of my heart I believe it. I could not be so deceived in one You would be a loyal friend—true to the core. —I know that. Ah! had we only met in better days—then I might possibly have found such a friend! But now, what am I? An outcast—one whom all men may sneer at-

even insult, as that cur did last night!" "A lady through all—that you are, and that I'll maintain," earnestly cried Mark, his

hands closing over hers. "You are laughing at me-and yet, would give half my remaining years to believe that you are sincere—that you will be my friend; one in whom I can confide, on whose truth and fidelity I could rely! I have dreamt of such a friend; will you be such a one?" "God helping me, I will!" solemnly replied

Mark. Isabella bowed her head over his hands, and touched her red lips to them. There was a glowing light in her eyes—a light that was almost flerce in its intensity.

The warm pressure nearly unnerved Mark, and he drew his hands away almost rudely. Isabella looked into his eyes half reproach fully. "You are offended at my gratitude?"

"No; not that; but for you to kiss my hands-!'

"I know I have no right; you are a gentle man, while I—I am nothing but the gambler's "You are cruel, lady—really cruel. You surely never thought that of me," muttered

Mark, his voice anything but steady. I may be too sensitive-I believe I did wrong you. But in some things I am a perfect child. Let me hold your hands; it will give me courage to tell you my story. If we are never to meet again—which the saints for-

-I would like you to know me as I really am, not as my position now would seem to prove. Thanks; now I feel better." And so did Mark; he would have been more or less than man, else. A lovely woman close beside him, her soft, warm hands clasped around his, her lustrous eyes looking into his,

a world of love in their depths, her perfumed breath barely touching his cheek. Yes, Mark was in no little danger.

CHAPTER XIV.

CLOSE QUARTERS. danger, and yet he enjoyed it. Few men Gold poured in upon us in a constant stream.

wouldn't. There are some perils which even a confirmed coward would like to hug closely to his breast—for instance, Madame Isabella.

Do you know, I was really afraid of you at first," softly breathed Isabella, gently pat-ting Mark's hands as she gazed confidingly into his face. "You looked so strict, so excessively proper. I like you better now; your brow is smooth, your eyes are gentle, there is a smile upon your lips. I am not afraid of ou, while you wear such a look."
"You shall never have cause for fearing

"Call me Isabella; we are to be friends, the best of friends; then why so much formality?" "On condition that you call me Mark, Isa-

"A bargain-Mark!" gleefully cried Isabella, drawing still nearer the young miner and nestling herself down into a most comfortable position. "And now, you will listen to my

story? It is not long, though a painful one."
"If painful, why recall its memory now?
Surely you cannot believe that it is needed? I believe that you are a pure, true-hearted wo-man, nor would I believe myself mistaken were the whole world to declare otherwise."

"I thank you! from my heart I thank you, Mark," faltered Isabella, her swimming eyes ooking up into his, her head almost touching his breast as it rested lightly against his arm. "But I have nerved myself to tell you all, and I must not falter. You have met my brother—they call him Pacific Pete?"

"Yes, I saw him to-day, on the ridge," and as he spoke, Mark flushed hotly, drawing himself more erect.

The words in a manner recalled his senses As the face of Edna Brand, so frank and open so lovely in its womanly purity, rose before him, the comparison was scarcely favorable to Isabella, so different in every respect, save that both were beautiful. The one would nerve a man to dare and endure all for the right; the other- Mark checked his thoughts, with a feeling of self-reproach at having even momentarily doubted her, as Isabella looked

full into his eyes. "I know. You were there with Miss Brand. I saw you as you escorted her to the hotel. But I was speaking of my brother. He came in last night, just as you left the hall. It was from him that I learned your name. He has been a kind, true-hearted brother to me, and I trust you two will become good friends. And yet, it is on his account that I am what you see—the outcast, the degraded—"

"My sister-and not even you must slander her," said Mark, gently placing his palm above her ruby lips.

"Tis nothing but the truth, though I thank you all the same," replied Isabella, with a grateful look. "But let me tell my story.
"We are Southerners, brother and I, natives of Louisiana. Our family were an old

and aristocratic one—the Keyes of Cypress Hill, at one time the richest and most influential in the State. But in grandfather's time, we began to go down the hill. Those were days of heavy gaming, when entire planta-tions, with all the stock, bipeds and quadrupeds, were sometimes placed upon the turn of a card. Unfortunately my father followed faithfully in his parents' footsteps. times fortune favored him, and then his profuse hospitality and lavish generosity would have shamed a prince. There could only be one ending. It came; we were beggars. When father realized what he had done, his mind must have given way, for he shot himself— fell dead across the table where he had lost his

'Misfortunes came fast upon us. Brother Edward—there were but us two—was at New Orleans when he heard the news, and returned at once to our home to what was our home. I Though a good, dear brother, he has a terrible temper. A word, at times, will set him on fire, and then it would be as easy to check a prairie fire as the torrent of his rage.

"I had never met him in one of these fits, until that day. He believed that father had been foully dealt with—that he had been swindled, if not murdered afterward to conswindled, if not murdered afterward to conswindled to the conswince to the consw rushed away from the house, and when he re turned, there was blood upon his hands! He had sought out the man who had won our all, and after a brief quarrel, had shot him dead.

"Only for me, I believe brother would have remained and dared all—have surrendered the house only with his life. But I pleaded with him, told him that he was my only protector now, that without him I must die of want or ome to worse. He yielded, none too soon. A faithful servant warned us of our danger-that a strong force of neighbors were approaching, uttering flerce threats against the murderer.

"We mounted our horses and fled, riding without drawing rein until nearly day That day we remained hidden in the woods. But this part of our story can be summed up in a few words. We escaped pursuit, made our way into Texas, and finally settled down in Nacogdoches.

"It was here that brother first gave signs of having inherited the fatal passion of his forefathers; he was a gambler to the core. Yet, unlike them, he seemed a favorite of fortune. He rarely lost, almost invariably won and sometimes in large amounts. True to his class—for you will find no more generous men than the true, professional cambler-he scattered his gold on every hand, now 'staking' a comrade, now setting a friend in business, fur-nishing the capital for running a faro-bank. At times we were literally rolling in gold, then again we suffered the acute pangs of poverty,

sometimes even lacking the meanest food. "It was after an unusually hard run of luck, when I was growing thin and actually faint for lack of food, that brother, rendered desperate by his continued reverses, too proud to beg a loan from his friends—it was in this trouble that he first disgraced himself. His antagon ist detected him cheating; to no one but y dear friend, could I acknowledge this, but I know that you will understand his feelings. He could not see me starve; for himself he

cared nothing. "He was accused of cheating. Maddened by the shame of the discovery, brother added murder to his crime. In the confusion he escaped unharmed. He told me what had oc curred, and poured into my lap the blood He said that he must flee, that the friends of the dead man would hunt him down without mercy. He tried to persuade me to, but I was resolved not to desert him. Within half an hour we were riding rapidly away from the town, on two mustangs paid

for with the blood-money. "But why tell you of our life, step by step? From what I have already said, you can imagine the rest. It was one series of success and reverses. We remained stationery longest in the city of Mexico. Brother had a large gambling hall there. The bank was finally broken, just as the first rumors of the gold discovery in California flashed like lightning over the land. We came here; it was the same YES, Mark was in a situation of no little story, for a time. But then fortune changed.

At this day, I believe brother and I are the two richest persons in America. And yet, can it bring back our lost respectability? No, we

are outcasts; outcasts we must remain. We have no friends, no people—my God! do you wonder that at times I fear I am going mad?"

Overcome by strong emotion, Isabella allowed her head to sink against Mark's breast, her face upturned to his, though her eyes were closed, a pearly tear trembling upon the long, silken lashes. Mark's left arm gently closed around her supple form as though involuntar-ily, and, deeply affected by her sad story, he bowed his head as though to brush away the tears with his lips.

Isabella opened her eyes, lustrous and glowing, despite the moisture. Her bosom heaved convulsively, and she drew his right hand to her breast, pressing it tightly there, as though to still the wild throbbings of her heart. Her red, ripe lips parted—the picture might have tempted Saint Anthony himself.

Mark made no pretence of being a saint. He was a man; the young blood ran hotly in his veins, and he acted as any other man would, under similar circumstances.

His lips met hers in a long, passionate kiss, a kiss such as sets the brain in a whirl, that tingles through every nerve and fiber; a kiss such as has led to the utter destruction of many a noble spirit.

Thus, lip to lip, eye to eye—then Mark drew back, half terrified by the wild, dazzling fire that filled those wondrous orbs. Despite himself, he recalled a story read not many years before—that weird, fantastic creation of Balzac: "THE SUCCUBUS." The eyes whose subtle fire consumed so many hearts, must have been akin to the orbs now looking into his. The surroundings, too, of almost oriental magnificence, the perfumed air-all combined to highten the resemblance, and Mark drew back with a tremor of almost superstitious

Isabella could not help noticing this abrupt change, and her flushed cheek paled, as she "You are angry with me; how have I of-

fended you?" "I am not offended, only-'tis growing late, and I have a long walk before me," muttered Mark, who, now that his momentary infatuation was over, began to wonder how he could end the interview.

"Must we part thus? Ah! I was supremely happy for a moment; if it could only last! Mark; my master, my king!" and her arms wound eagerly around him, while her face neared his, her warm breath playing upon his "You must not leave me; I cannot live without you; I will not! Nay, hear me.
Is it such a terrible thing, that you need grow so pale? Listen! From the moment when I first sat eyes upon you, I loved you—loved you with a fire and intensity of which you cold Northerners can have no conception. And, now, now that your lips have touched mine, your arm clasped me to your breast, I would die were you to leave me. I am not exacting—true love never is. I don't ask so much.
Only your love; love me, that is all I ask. Surely, 'twill not be so hard!" and she drew her superb figure erect.

Mark sat there in silence, confounded-as Old Business would have expressed it-like a bump on a log. He knew not what answer to make. The scales had, in a measure, fallen from his eyes. It was passion, not love, that had led him into this little indiscretion. The fair face of Edna Brand arose before him, as if reproachfully; that image decided him. He must extricate himself; but how?

"You do not answer-Sir Iceberg! Can nothing I say; can I do nothing to thaw you?" softly breathed Isabella, nestling closer to his side, looking eagerly into his eyes. "I am far from being an iceberg, Miss

Keyes—"
"Your promise forgotten, already—Miss

"Perhaps 'twould be better. Believe me, I am grateful for the confidence you have placed

Grateful: and in so cold a tone! I do not ask your gratitude, your sympathy; I ask more, I ask your love! Mark, do you under-I love you: love you so madly stand me? that I could almost tear you to pieces! you understand such love? In this I feel like tigress, whose caress kills. But, no; you will not understand me! Yet you must; shall. Mark, I ask little; little to you, much, oh! so much to me! I beg your love; think of that. I ask nothing more. I will be your slave; only love me a little. I have gold in thousands. We will go far away, where no one knows us, and be--'

Mark arose with a sudden gesture. "That can never be. I have acted foolishly -criminally, perhaps, led away by my sym pathy for your sad story, but this must end

My heart is no longer my own. I have no love to give you. For a moment, Isabella cowered before him. pale and ghastly, breathing hard, like one sorely wounded. Then she arose, pale and

"You refuse; you scorn my love? This is your answer."

'Not scorn_" "It is the same. Very well; be it so! You seen how powerfully I could love; you shall learn how intensely I can hate. can go now, because you are beneath my roof, and hospitality is sacred, even to the outcast the degraded being whom you so proudly cast aside. But, Mark Austin, proud as you are, the time will come when, upon your bended knees, you shall beg as an inestimable boon, the love which you now so scornfully reject. And then—then I will remind you of this night." She touched a bell, and the giant negro

ed his sable conductor in silence. he strode though the town. (To be continued—commenced in No. 296.)

quickly answered the summons. Mark follow-

THE ship Western Empire, seven of whose crew were recently drowned in endeavoring to land on the Florida coast near Apalachicola, has been found thirty miles north of Jupiter Inlet. The ship was caught in a storm three days after leaving Pensacola, and was dismasted, waterlogged, and abandoned. She subsequently made a voyage of more than five hundred miles, drifted within the influence of the Gulf Stream, and on toward the Atlantic, until she was discovered near Jupiter Inlet, swinging to an anchor. At the time of the disaster the anchors were let go to bring the ship's head to the wind. The ves sel piloted itself around the dangerous coast of Florida, with its keys and reefs, until the anchor reached bottom.

"AT LAST."

Once 't was my saddest thought, Ere I began to doubt you, That some time I must learn, Perhaps, to do without you.

For Death parts dearest friends; From him there's no escaping; And partings worse than death, Our fears are ever shaping.

Now with new dawns of hope No thought of you is blended; Day deepens evermore, the transfer ended. Though morning dreams are ended.

And now the saddest thought
That haunts my heart about you
Is this—that I have learned,
At last, to do without you.

Tied to the Track. A STATION-MASTER'S STORY.

ALONG about the years sixty-seven and eight it got to be altogether too common a thing on our line putting sleepers across the track and tearing up rails, to throw the train off, so as to rob the express car; and some of the villains who were caught got pretty severe sentences. It so happened that in an especially noteworthy case it was my own evidence chiefly that convicted two of the most precious rascals you ever set eyes on, Tom Jackson and Clint Parker by name. They were sent to Joliet for fifteen years, and I was mighty glad to serve as "humble instrument" in the case, I tell you; though sometimes I did feel kind of squeamishibe when I'd recent to a serve as "humble instrument" in the case, I tell you; like when I'd repeat to myself the last words Parker said as they took him out of court: "As for you, Joe Townsend" (and he shook his fist significantly in my direction), "all this comes of the cowardly lies you've sworn to; and I want you to understand that Tom Jackson and me, we ain't the men to stay down at Joliet for fifteen years, breaking stone. goin' to git out, we are, and you may depend upon it we'll be keerful to pay our first respec's to you. We've invented a new kind of sleeper to throw trains off with, eh, Tom?" and he leered horribly to his crony as they passed

through the door. Those last words of Parker's I turned over in my mind a good many times during the next two years. Somehow or other they stuck by me. "We've invented a new kind of sleeper

to throw a train off the track."

I kind of felt as though he meant something unusual by that, although I could not make out what. It seemed that I was to find out, out what.

though, before many months. My house, where my wife and the babies live, is just about three-quarters of a mile below the station, and quite near the track. I generally get through at the depot at half-past eight, as soon as the accommodation goes down. The night express, which goes through at 9:55, doesn't pull up at R—at all, and the through freight, which meets it down the road a piece, at W—, of course I have nothing to do with. I might mention here that the road is double-track the entire length; but there is a long bridge at W—, so that the freight always waits there for the express.

At half-past eight, then, as I say, I'm at liberty for the night, and it doesn't take me long to shut up the depot and start off down the road for home; and a lonely enough tramp it is, I tell you, even on a bright night, for the track runs all the way through woods and swamps, and it's mighty dark and uncomfort-

Well, the night I'm going to tell you about was black as the inside of a two-mile tunnel. When I started down the track I almost wished I'd gone around by the highway, for I had to feel my way half the time. However, I knew the path tolerably well, and could tell where all the culverts and dangerous places were, pretty nearly. So I held up my lantern like the head-light of a locomotive and stumbled

clasped around my waist with a strength it was impossible to overcome; then, suddenly, I was thrown down, the light from a more powerful lantern than mine (which had fallen from my hand and become extinguished), flashed about me, and by its glare I saw three powerful fellows, who, in spite of my struggles. and I am no baby, proceeded to tie my hands firmly behind me. I did not recognize them at all till, at length, as I lay there on my back, entirely helpless, one of them snatched the lantern from his companion and held it close down to me, while he brought his own face close to mine.

"Wall, Joe Townsend," he said, "do you

"Yes, I know you, Clint Parker," I answered, as coolly as I could. "I thought as how mebbe ye would. I

didn't mean to stay down there to Joliet so long thet my dearest friend would forgit me. I've ben thinkin' 'bout you, Joe, most all the time while I was down there gittin' up my muscle breakin' stone. And here's anuther feller you may recomember—leastways he hain't forgot you, eh, Tom?"—and I now recognized Tom Jackson, the other prisoner of two years before. The third man I had never

"This place 'Il do as well as any, I s'pose." arker went on, presently. "What's the Parker went on, presently. "What's the time, Jem?" Jem consulted his watch, and pronounced it to be about nine.

'All right; he'll have jest about fifty minates to think things over in and repent having lied about two such exemplary gentlemen as Tom Jackson and myself-eh, Tom?"-and Tom chuckled approvingly.

"Now git out all them ropes," still Parker He seemed to be the leading spirit went on. and spokesman of the enterprise. know what we're goin' to do with ver. Joe? We ain't goin' to throw no trains off the track. The impetuous outbreak had awed him, and Oh, no! Tom and me, we wouldn't do nothin' he felt a dull, heavy weight upon his spirits as of that kind—eh, Tom? But we're goin' to et you throw one off. I told ye, ye know, thet Tom and me we'd diskivered a new kind of sleeper for throwin' trains with. We're jest goin' to tie you down here across the track awhile, thet's all. We wouldn't do no-

thin' cruel-eh, Tom?" So their hellish purpose was revealed at last. They were going to tie me to the track and let the train pass over me! I confess that at that moment my limbs actually shook with fear. It was not only death within less than an hour that I was to suffer, but death in a most violent and horrible form. Certainly a revenge worthy of two such monsters as stood there gloating over my misery. For a moment I thought only of myself. Then I groaned aloud as I remembered Jennie and the little ones. I don't know why I should be ashamed to tell it—I doubt if there are many men who would not have done the same in my place-but I just sunk down on my knees then and there, and begged those heartless villains all.

to forego their desperate purpose. I might as well have gone on my knees to the great iron monster that would be along in so short a

time to crush me. They only laughed merrily over my despair, and began their work.

You'll acknowledge yourself, gentlemen, that it's rather a dismal look for a poor fellow to be gagged and bound, hand and foot, and then be tied fast across a railroad track with his neck across one rail and his feet over the other, and to know that in something like half an hour's time a fast express train is coming down that very track without paying any attention to him whatever-and this in a dark, drizzly night, and in a lonely spot where no human being is at all likely to find him. And that's the way those double-dyed scoundrels left me—they tied me there fast and firm they mockingly bade me good-night and pleasant dreams—the leader, Parker, even stooped over me and kissed me with pretended tenderness, and I felt his hot, liquor-freighted breath on my cheek. And yet I could not cry out in my agony nor curse them in my despe

out in my agony sor curse them in my desperation as they moved off.

No words of mine, gentlemen, can describe the horror and agony I felt during the time I lay there. You can not half imagine it—I doubt if I can recall it now as it really was myself. I go over it again and again in my sleep to this day—fancy myself once more bound down to that fearful rack, powerless to stir hand or foot, yet striving with almost superhuman force to burst the ropes that bind me—till I finally seem to succeed and awake shricking from the horrid nightmare, with the sweat standing out in great drops upon my

But I did not burst my bonds that night. The villains had taken good care of that. There I was in a most painful position, bound by the neck to one rail, and by the ankles to the other, my hands tied beneath me, and my body fastened to a sleeper. Oh, God! how I did struggle to free myself; how I sought to wrench away my legs; how I tugged at the cord which bound my wrists; and then, since I could not get them free, as I thought of the fearful death so soon to come upon me, how I strove to throttle myself with the rope that held my head to the rail. How I prayed that I might suffocate there as I lay. that men have died of terror, but I don't believe it. If such a thing were possible, I think I should have perished in those dreadful mo-ments. But I did not. Oh, no! The murder-

ers were to have their fullest revenge. And now, suddenly I grew strangely calm. I philosophized with myself. I said resignedly, that a man could die but once; and after all, what would it matter an hour hence. Besides, in reality, this was an instantaneous and almost painless end. But my wife and children! Oh, I would like to live for them. And could I not? I was not dead yet. If I could only move myself a few feet. Oh, so very few feet! Yet I could not stir.

Now, a thought struck me. Could I not signal the train in some way, stop it one little yard, or foot, or inch, before it passed over me? Alas, how? They would never hear my cries. They would never see me in the darkness of the night. No one would know until the morrow, and then I should be, alas! crushed, and mangled, and dead.

But my lantern; where was that? I turned my head, and could see it a few feet away, where I had dropped it. If I only had it on my breast, I could draw up my pocket with my teeth, I thought, and somehow get a match from it, and so light the lantern. And in my insane terror. I called out to it, and begged it insane terror, I called out to it, and begged it to come nearer, and save my wretched life. You may smile at that, gentlemen, but human nature is weaker than you think, and I believe

am as good a man, ordinarily as the most. But all this time the minutes were flying by like lightning. Horrible as that hour was to me, I could have wished it was all eternity. Every instant I dreaded to hear the train com ing. I knew it must be well nigh time for it now, and I knew that it was on time, for we had telegraphed it an hour before. I will not I guess, when all at once, without the slightest | dwell longer on my sufferings. I did not free idea on my part that any human being was myself. I could not if the salvation of the within half a mile of me, I felt a pair of arms | race had depended upon it. Nor did anybody come to free me. that spot on a night like that, and at such an hour. Nor was the train behind time. No, I heard it at last; it was no creation of my ex cited fancy this time. I heard it at last, first a faint, rumbling sound, that seemed to come from deep down in the earth, beneath me; then the ground seemed to thrill and tremble; then the rails rattled a little, then more and more: then I heard the whistle, and bell: and then, oh, God! another instant, and it would be upon me! I could even see the reflected glare of the headlight.

I tried once more to cry out; I struggled again for an instant, with all the power of my being; then I knew that my time was come, and I shut my eyes and lay quite still. the great train came rushing on and on—it was close upon me—I saw it not, yet I felt it to be directly above me. Great heavens! what was this? Was it passing over me and I still living, and feeling it not? I opened my eyes; I saw the cars flashing by above and within a few feet of my head. Then the truth flashed upon me. The train was upon the other track! The reaction was too much for me, and I fainted dead away.

When I came to consciousness again, I found myself in my own room at home. I had only a confused recollection of the events which had so lately befallen me, but they told me gently all that I did not know of the story.

I had been very ill, they said, of brain fever. They had found me on the morning of that terrible night, bound fast-not to the railroadtrack, but to a tree, just a few rods away from it. I was very delirious, and was taken home raving continually. I had been sick for a fortnight. Then they asked how it was that I came to be tied to the tree. But, alas, I knew as little of that part of the story as they did. I told them how I had been seized by Parker and his companions, and tied to the track. My lantern, found near the spot, and distinct marks of a struggle, confirmed the story. The question was, how did I escape the train, and how did I become tied to the tree? My own theory is this: Parker and Jackson were not, after all, so bad as I took them to be. Their revenge had been, not to murder me, but to frighten me terribly; and they certainly had succeeded perfectly. I could see nothing, tied as I was, could hardly turn my head, and they had easily persuaded me into the idea that I was on the down track-that of the passenger-express. After the train had passed, they had come to release me before the up freight should be along. They had fastened me to the tree so as to get fully away before I could give any alarm. That is the only way I can account for the facts. And though I certainly don't owe the rascals anything for what they did to me, I never think of the affair to this day without feeling a kind of gratitude toward them, and thanking God they were not as black-hearted as I thought they were, after

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OLL COOMES!

In two weeks will commence

HAPPY HARRY.

The Wild Boy of the Woods.

A ROMANCE OF THE NORTHERN LAKES. A story that old boys and young will read with rare zest and enjoyment-full of humor,

excitement and strange adventure—a charac teristic romance of the woods and lakes. TELL YOUR BOY FRIENDS OF IT!

MEN WANT WOMEN FOR WIVES.

"Men who are worth having want women for wives. A bundle of gew-gaws, bound with a string of flats and quavers, sprinkled with cologne, and set in a carmine saucer—this is no help for a man who expects to raise a family of boys on bread and meat. The plano and lace frames are good in their places, and so are the ribbon frills and tassels; but you cannot make a dinner of the former, nor a bed blanket of the latter—and, awful as the idea may seem to you, both dinner and bed blankets are necessary to domestic happiness. Life has its realities as well as fancles; but you make all its decorations, remembering the tassels and curtains, but forgetting the bedstead. Suppose a man of good sense, and of good prospects, to be looking for a wife, what chance have you to be chosen? You may trap him, but how much better to make it an object for him to catch you? If you should trap and marry an industrious young man, and deceive him, he would be unhappy as long as he lives. So render yourselves worth catching, and you need no shrewd mother or brother to recommend you, and help you find a market."

We find the above floating about in the newspapers and endorsed by the sapient Solons who preside over the columns, in such expressions as—"Advice worth volumes of fic-tion and sentimentalism"—"True as gospel," etc., etc.

Fiddlesticks! While the writer was about it, why didn't he give both sides of the question? Why did he try to give prominence to the idea that women are vain, dawdling, simpering creatures, whose sole aim is to "look pretty and angle for a husband"?—or, if they have already "caught one," to render his life miserable, while they bestow their smiles on others!-and keeping silence in regard to man's numerous infirmities, have us believe that he is the prey and victim of woman's wiles?

True it is, although it breaks our heart to say it, there are legions of just such female fools in the world as described above, but, so far as our observation goes, we find the sexes balanced in this respect in about the pro-portion of six of one and half a dozen of the

"Men who are worth having want women for wives "—and they generally get them, for no sensible man will be attracted by a smirking, be-frizzled, walking fashion-plate, any more than a woman of intelligence and real depth of character would think of allying herself with a perfumed, milk-and-water, fashion-

Like seeks like, although there are occasional exceptions to this as to every other rule, sometimes sadly exemplified even in our greatest men and women, where husband or wife of brilliant intellect is held down and clogged by the weight of a vapid, senseless companion -but these are only the exceptions which prove the rule, and we generally find the male butterfly of society dancing attendance on and basking in the smiles of the damsel who thinks it vulgah to wash dishes and bake bread, and who pronounces a man "a perfect love of a fellow? because he wears his broadcloth cut in the latest agony.

His exceedingly "small talk" and airy compliments, the exquisite bow with which he presents her perfumed handkerchief or glove that she has dropped—the untiring devotion he displays in fanning her assiduously for a whole evening without giving out, pouring into her ear, meanwhile, the tenderest nothings his slangy talk about his "governor" or the "old man"—his willingness to spend in buggyrides and ice-creams money that he has had n hand in earning-money perhaps coaxed or cajoled from a fond, weak, widowed mother his little occasional sprees, all mark him as the affinity of the addle-pated, ultra-fashionable girl found in every branch of society. There is a bond of union between them it were a pity to disturb. Let'them alone!

They are two fools well met! If all women were such useless pieces of furniture, we might well deplore and prophecy the speedy dissolution of the happiness of home life, but it is a matter of gratulation and hope for the future that there are so many sensible, practical girls in whom these sleek popinjays see nothing to admire.

My dear sir, try to divest yourself of that sweet self-love which impels you to conclude forthwith, when a woman treats you civilly, that she is trying to "trap" you! Don't ima gine, when she bestows a smile on you, that she is striving to get possession of that barren thing you call your heart; it is just as likely she is making fun of your pretty little four haired mustache, while you are misinterpreting her looks and thinking to yourself, know she's in love with me." Even if she s Even if she goes so far as to pin buttonhole bouquets on the lapel of your coat, don't be puffed up with vanity, and feel sorry you cannot be divided bodily so that all the nice girls might get a piece of you, for, ten to one, while you go whistling down the street, pluming yourself on your imagined conquest, she'll be telling her sister how "awful soft" you are! Or, when you bid her good-night, if she

turn away her head so that you scarcely see her face, for mercy's sake don't attribute it to some tender emotion that she is struggling to conceal, for 'tis altogether probable that the combined stench of cigar-smoke, patchouli and cardamon seeds you are redolent of is too much for her olfactories. It is true she may accept your photographs, but you wouldn't feel a bit flattered if you knew she took them chiefly because the handsome frames make

nice ornaments for the parlor brackets, would you? No, you are not aware of all this, but as you grow older you will learn there are "more things in heaven and earth than are dreamed of in your philosophy," my dear young friend. But try to make yourself worthy of her, and you will find this laughter at your expense turned into hearty endeavors to aid you to be better and nobler. She may not be willing to marry you, even after your reformation, for a true woman asks more of gold and less of dross in the character of the man she weds than you at your best can promise, but she will not deny you her friendship, and that is surely something of which

you might well be proud.

Every intelligent, thinking woman knows that in life the prose outweighs the poetrythat fact preponderates over fancy, and as she runs her eye over the list of her male acquaintances, she smiles in derision at the thought of taking for a life companion, to bat-tle with her its storms and meet its trials, the scented dandy, the dapper clerk in a milliner

store, the hanger-on of a wealthy father!

Instead of a mass of fashionable vices with an exterior of elegant broadcloth, covered by a thin coating of conventional politeness, a pure, virtuous woman has a right to demand in a husband nobility and purity. Purity? Yes, emphatically yes, but where will she find

Echo answers "where?" GARRY GAINES.

UNHEEDED WARNINGS.

Ir is said that "a burned child dreads the fire," and if older heads were as willing to have the same fear, as little children, how many an accident and catastrophe would it not prevent? We are too heedless and reckless ever to heed warnings. There are so many of us in this world that it appears as though we did not value our own lives or that of others. If a trapeze-performer falls from his giddy hight and meets with that dreadful fate of being dashed to pieces on the earth, does that deter others from following the late trapeze - performer's business? Not one bit There will be hundreds of others willing and anxious to secure the place left vacant.

No matter how many accidents happen to those who peril their lives in those air-ships, balloons, it does not diminish the number of eriel travelers, for they seem to go on the principle that "where there is no danger there is no pleasure." Broken limbs, fractured heads, and agonizing pain serve as no warn-ings; they are neither heeded nor listened to. People whose hearing is imperfect have been

crushed out of existence by the thundering railway engine, whose signal of danger was not heard, yet deaf men continue to walk on the railway-track. I know not why, unless it be that they are unwilling to acknowledge to themselves or others their hearing is as defec-tive as it really is. If that is so, they often to pay the forfeit for their deception.

Railway accidents occur, and we read with horror the fearful accounts of the frightful killing or maiming of humanity. The railway company is censured, and that is all the punishment it gets. This censure does not seem to have the desired effect, for the massacres con-

Fires occur in churches, halls, and factories: lives are sacrificed, and, in almost every case, the coroner's verdict will be that these lives might have been saved if there had been proper means of egress; yet, with this warning before their eyes, men continue to put up buildings just as badly contrived as regards places of exit in case of a conflagration. It seems wicked and criminal to sacrifice so much human life. There ought to be a law made, and rigidly enforced all over the land, concerning proper means of escape, in case of accidents, being provided in every building. There are laws in some localities, yet even in great cities, such laws are not enforced—so careless are our public servants.

If architects and builders, who so culpably jeapordize life and limb, have any consciences, how many twinges must they have when they hear of the fearful calamities for which they are to blame! Must not the ghosts of their victims haunt their slumbers, and dog their

Dante has written, that, upon the gates of hell are placed these words: "Who enters here, leaves hope behind." The words might well be written over the doors of many of the unsafe and insecure buildings around us.

This subject ought to be given great consideration. God did not give us our lives to throw away. He did not intend us to be wholesale murderers of our fellow-beings. There is too much headlong haste and too much reckless speed in every day of our lives. We pay no need to cautions, and disregard danger-signal until it is too late. The blood of the victims of these accidents and holocausts must lie heavy on the souls of some people. What can they answer to the Almighty for their wickedness? EVE LAWLESS.

LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE.

THERE is no law in human affairs more im mutable and potent than that which connects, by indissoluble bonds, destiny with character If we would know what is to befall us, in th truest sense of the phrase, we must correctly appreciate our inmost character. This gives the key to all our future, and unlocks secrets which no oracle can ever reveal. It is not merely the events and circumstances of our lives that are so largely controlled by our inmost dispositions, though this is true to an extent that we rarely appreciate. What are the great events that mark the life of the indulrent pleasure-seeker? Sickness, disease premature decay. Of the spendthrift? Pov-

Of the selfish and miserly? Desolation and loneliness. Of the faithless and dishonest The finger of scorn and a life of disgrace. the other hand, integrity, economy and energy lead inevitably to the most permanent such cess; benevolence and good-will bring friends temperance and good habits are accompanied by health and long life. Even the most exernal surroundings of life are thus more closely allied to character, and more depend ent upon it, than we ever imagine. But life is not made up of events; man is not "the creature of circumstances," as is so often as serted. The great results of life flow from character, not from condition. Different characters bring out of the same outward events totally opposite issues. The cheerful and the melancholy man look upon the same scene in nature, but how differently are they impressed! To the one all is beauty and delight, to the other all is gloom and sadness

The world without reflects that which is within. So in social life we reap that which we sow, and society is often to us but a re flection of our own nature. The selfish or proud, or cold or jealous disposition, suffers annoyance, disappointment and pain from the very same sources which bring love and joy | well-spoken of.

to the heart of the gentle and kind. Every characteristic has a magnetism by which it draws its like to itself, unfolding from others that which is in sympathy with itself, and thus perpetuating and recreating it. There are no blessings which may not be changed into evils, no trials or sufferings that may not be transformed into blessings. Temptation brings ruin to one, and strength to another; not by its innate power, but by simply evolving the character that is tried. Pleasure is a poison to one, and a healthful refreshment to another. The same privileges, the same discipline, will cause one to rise to hights of vir tue, and another to sink into weakness and

Foolscap Papers.

My Intelligence Office.

WHEN my venerable father used to lick me in the morning, and send me to school, he would remind me that it was his great ambition to live to see me so intelligent that I would find it very profitable to start an Intelligence Office on my own hook. I used to pon-der on this all day in some neighboring woodspasture, while I played numble-peg with Jin-kins' boy, and inwardly resolved to start one on the first opportunity.

Intelligence has always been our family failing. Any one of my renowned ancestors could sit down on a stump and whittle, and tell you anything, and a good deal more, in a pinch without charging anything extra for anything

additional. It was all at the same price.

I would have started my Intelligence Office long since, but there was my little pigs to rear up into the maturity of bacon, and that occupied all my leisure time; and the wood was to

I saw it. The intelligence of my office is of a remarkable order; it is warranted not to fade in the sunniest weather, and to stand the severest washing; and any thing which you wish to find out, you will find out to the very best of my knowledge, and I was raised on a

If you want to know just what your neighbors are saving about you, it will only cost you fifty cents; or if you pay a dollar, a good deal will be left out, and the intelligence will be of the purest order; and warranted to please the

most fast-iduous. If you want to know just when your wife's aged aunt will be down on you with three trunks, and the accompanying bundles and bandboxes, you can be informed to a day, but no unnecessary storming will be permitted in

Should you want a situation as a cashier of bank, or as coal-heaver, I will tell you where to apply for the sum of a little bit of a one dollar bill-not a great big one; and if you should fail, it will be your misfortune, and not my

If you desire a situation as a wood-sawyer, you can try a cord of my wood, at the house, and then I can see just what a recommendation I can give you for the dangerously low price of fifty cents.

If you want a good character shown, you

can get it cheap, with a very small extra charge, for flaws, scratches, and fractures that need covering up.

If you lose your watch, you can apply here, and either get it, or you can buy one as near like it as can be for the same money you paid for it first, which will be a great convenience.

If you want to know what time in the year

t is most suitable to take a bath; the best time to plant string beans, when they will come up with twenty tied to a string; or you wish to know the best time to sow your early potatoes, drill your potato-bugs, plant fences the most productive, or lick your enemy, on the consideration of a small consideration, you will get that intelligence in my office, where all kinds are kept, cut, dried, and bottled; also stringsful, pocketsful, and in tubs, where wanted in quantities. All is warranted to be fresh, and

will not spoil in the keeping.

If you desire to know what your fortune is course, the more you pay, the better the for tune you will get.

Any information you may desire from your dead relatives, can be constantly had on application, as my office has telegraph lines running to all parts of Indiana.

Any man wishing a wife, will find this the place to seek one; even if I have to be obliged to sell him mine, he shall be accommodated. If you wish to know your capabilities, all you have to do, is to come to my rooms and

have your head examined by experts. If you want to know when it will rain, inquire within, and you will receive an answer in a few days, at furthest.

If you think you have got a counterfeit bill, come here, and if it is not, we will give you one, and take that. If you want to know the best day to pay

your debts, hurry to this office, plank out one dollar, in an excited state, shake the clerk by the collar, but don't threaten his life, in your hurt, and your debts remain unpaid If you happen to be of the kind that don't

know anything at all, we will charge you only one dollar for a chair in this office, for one day you bringing your own crackers and cheese and if, when you leave at night, you don't know more than any living man, or a dozen dead ones, your money will be handed—to an-

The sort of information that makes people go away wiping their mouths, and licking their lips, and winking one eye at people they meet, is supplied next door, through a private entrance; under our guidance, it is a great suc-

want to, they will be charged very little extra therefor: just enough to cover expenses.

If you have lost any children by being car ried off, here is the very place where you will find them. People who leave here, and know too much

of course, will have to settle for the excess, Call early, before the rush. WASHINGTON WHITEHORN,

OVER-SENSITIVENESS .- A great deal of discomfort arises from over-sensitiveness about what people may say of you or your actions.
This requires to be blunted. Consider whether anything you can do will have much connection with what they will say. And, besides, it may be doubted whether they will say anything at all about you. Many unhappy persons seem to imagine that they are always in an ampitheater, with the assemworld as spectators; whereas all the while they are playing to empty benches. They fancy, too, they form the particular theme of every passer-by. If, however, they must listen to imaginary conversation about themselves, they might, at any rate, defy the proverb, and insist upon hearing themselves

Topics of the Time.

-" As to being conflicted with the gout," said Mrs. Partington, "high living don't bring it on.
It is incoherent in some families, and is handed
down from father to son. Mr. Hammer, poor
soul, who has been so long ill with it, disinherited it from his wife's grandmother."

-On Oct. 4 the Spanish Duke of Medina-Cœli married the daughter of the Dukes of Montore, Alba, Berwick, and Stuart. This gentleman, descended from James II. and Arabella Churchill scended from James II. and Arabella University, is four dukes at once. But the bridegroom may boast greater miracles still in his own person, for he is six times duke, thirteen times marquis, fourteen times count, and three times viscount. The King of Spain and the Princess of Asturius signed the contract. Such a trousseau has not been beheld in Madrid for centuries. It was explicited to the public for a greater A deviler. been beheld in Madrid for centuries. It was exhibited to the public for a month. A double marriage was expected, as the Dowager Duchess of Medina-Cœli has long been engaged to a Senor Leon, not even hidalgo. Lengthy negotiations have been held upon the means of raising this gentleman, through decree, to such lofty state that he may decently marry the six duchesses, fourteen marchionesses, and so on, represented by a lady of the Medina-Cœli family. It was thought that means had been found for working thought that means had been found for workin this great transformation. At the last moment, however, the wedding of the Dowager Duchess with M. Leon was once more postponed.

—The human hand is so beautifully formed, it

—The human hand is so beautifully formed, it has so fine a sensibility, which governs its motions so correctly, every effort of the will is answered as instantly as if the hand itself was the seat of the will; its actions are so free, so powerful, and yet so delicate, that it seems to possess a quality instinct in itself, and we use it as we draw our breath, unconsciously, and have loss all recollection of the feeble and ill-directed ef all recollection of the feeble and ill-directed efforts of its first exercise, by which it has been perfected. In the hand are twenty-nine bones, from the mechanism of which result strength, mobility and elasticity. On the length, strength, free lateral motion, and perfect mobility of the thumb, depends the power of the hand, its strength being equal to that of all the fingers. Without the fleshy ball of the thumb, the power of the fingers would avail nothing; and, accordingly, the large ball formed by the muscles of ingly, the large ball formed by the muscles of the thumb is the distinguishing character of the human hand.

—Physicians practicing in fever districts are gratultously furnished with the receipt that Bangkok doctors guarantee as infallible: "Take small pieces of rhinoceros horn and elephants' tusks, the teeth of tigers, crocodiles, and bears; three portions of the bones of vultures, geese and ravens; a fragment of a stag and a bison's horn, and a minute piece of sandalwood; reduce the whole to powder and mix it with cold water on a stone. Half the potion is to be swallowed by the patient, and the rest is to be rubbed over his body." This is not a whit more absurd than Hippocrates' and Galen's own remedies. Bangkok is only 2000 years behind Dr. Braudreth and Prof. Carpenter.

—A chunk of milk, "solidified by the Hooker

-A chunk of milk, "solidified by the Hooker process," and weighing about 100 pounds, and which "had been exposed to the action of the air for four years and three months," was lately shown at the rooms of the Society of Arts in shown at the rooms of the Society of Arts in London, and the Agricultural Gazette of that city says "its quality was still so excellent that in a few minutes it was resolved, by churning, into good fresh butter." By the Hooker process. We have had a realizing sense of what that means ever since Old Brindle lifted us over an intertural fewer.

-Another one on Nevada. When a St. Helens photographer wants to make a good picture, he puts the sitter in his place, pulls out a navy revolver, cocks it, levels it at the man's head, and says, "Now, jist you sit perfectly still, and don't move a hair; put on a calm, pleasant expression of countenance, and look right into the muzzle of this revolver, or I'll blow the top of your head off. My reputation as an artist is at stake, and I don't want no nonsense about this picture. 32

—Referring to an item in this department re-lating to corn cobs for fuel, a correspondent in-forms us that a patent issued in 1868 or '69 to H. G. Dayton, of Marysville, Ky., covers the idea of a prepared cob for fuel. The correspon-dent adds also the curious statement that the dent adds also the curions statement that the patent's specification claims "a prepared corncob in any way for purposes of artificial fuel," which, he says, is so broad and exclusive as to keep all other inventors or innovators off the track. No man can substantiate such a preposterous "claim." He must patent right not only a specific appliance, but must prove that it is new and original. As corn-cobs have been used for "artificial fuel" from time immemorial, no general claim for a patent on such use would be consistent either with common or special law. consistent either with common or special law The use of corn-cobs as "lighters" is now be coming yearly more general. When steeped in a solution of tar or asphaltum, or soaked in crude kerosene and dried afterward, the cobs are most excellent for lighting both coal and wood fires, and no patentee can prohibit their prepara-tion and use by any consumer.

-The Government of Spain has opened a competition for a national air; the one selected is to be adopted by the State and all the regi-ments of Alfonso XII. Hitherto the bands have ments of Alfonso XII. Hitherto the bands have played by turns the hymns of Riego, of Espartero, Prim, Pierard, etc., but none of them is considered suitable to the present order of things. A nation without a national hymn is like a church without a steeple—it lacks its crowning glory and is rated very low church indeed. Spain hasn't had much use for a national hymn for two hundred years. The inordinate egotism of the Spanish race—their great boasting and little accomplishment—would make a hymn flaunting anybody's glory but their individual own a personal insult. We'll be curious to see what this offer brings forth.

—"Coal Oil Johnny," who became wealthy in

—" Coal Oil Johnny," who became wealthy in the petroleum excitement, and subsequently spent his money in reckless extravagance, is working as a railroad hand in Iowa, Charles H. Harris, who had a somewhat similar experience in sudden and brief affluence, has made a living of late in Chicago writing dialect humor as "Carl Pretzel." Sudden fortune is by no means a permanent accession either of wealth or happiness. The fortune that stays best and does most good is that which is well earned and slow ly gained. We dare say Carl Pretzet will again work his way to wealth, and if he does, that it will not take wings and fly away, for, by earning his money, he will know the true value of a dol lar and only spend it for a full equivalent.

-Vegetables do not generally form as large a of household consumption. A full meat diet of nousehold consumption. A full meat diet makes the consumer coarse; a full vegetable diet makes them refined. The happy medium is the true treatment of the body and mind, for so wed is body to mind that it may with truth be said that the mind reflects and responds to the bodily conditions—a coarse and gross diet will produce a coarse and gross mind.

—We Americans are even yet an anomaly—s aradox—a contradiction, to the English compre-ension. *Chambers' Journal*, one of the most intelligently-conducted of all the English periodi list of some of our common expressions which a list of some of our common expressions which it will be a surprise for us to learn are here accredited in our conversation. As for instance: "A man is attacked and defeated in the Legislature, and this is reported by saying that he has been 'catawamptiously chawed up?' If don't want to swear," says a conscientious man, 'cos it's wicked; but if I didn't see him do it, may I dom swears outright, but generally has recourse to those half-disguised phrases which a famous New York preacher once denounced as 'one-horse oaths.' " " Catawamptiously," " tectotaciously," are good-on the Englishman.

Readers and Contributors.

To Connespondents and Authors.—No MSS, received that are not fully prepaid in postage.—No MSS, preserved for future orders.—Unavailable MSS, promptly returned only where stamps accompany the inclosure, for such return.—No correspondence of any nature is permissible in a package marked as "Book MS."—MSS, which are imperfect are not used or wanted. In all cases our choice rests first upon merit or fitness; second, upon excellence of MS, as "copy" third, length. Of two MSS, of equal merit we always prefer the shorter.—Never write on both sides of a sheet. Use Commercial Note size paper as most convenient to editor and compositor, tearing Note size paper as most convenient to editor and compositor, tearing off each page as it is written, and carefully giving it its folio or page number.—A rejection by no means implies a want of merit. Many MSS, unavailable to us are well worthy of use.—All experienced and popular writers will find us ever ready to give their offerings early attention.—Correspondents must look to this column for all information in regard to contributions. We can not write letters except in special

Declined: "The Onyx Ring;" "Only a Bootblack;" "Border Justice;" "Fame or Love;" "The Wild-goose Chase;" "Spirit or Not?" "A Hopeless Case," "Old Grines Watch;" "Peaches and Vineses;" "Cand Come". Will good of Case;" "Old Grines' Waten; gar;" "Go and Come."

We use "A Mote in the Air;" "When the Dew Falls;" "A Glance that Hurt;" "Mrs. Maloney's Boy;" "Shepherd and Keeper;" "The Old-New Boy;" "

P. G. A. Tobacco is poisonous in proportion to the nicotine it contains,

MISS MERRYTON. Do not answer. A correspondence of the kind named is improper.

MRS. D. G. S. Buy the felt hat and trim it yourself, thereby saving five dollars at least.

An Astoria Man. Nitro glycerine cannot "supercede" gunpowder. It never will be used in ar-

HENRY D. G. A true "chromo" is only expensive where it is a true chromo-lithograph. Water colors are almost wholly used in the best French

OLAPOD. Willis Gaylord Clark and Lewis Gaylord Clark were twin-brothers. The latter died only a few years ago. He was editor of the old Knieker-becker Magazine in its best days.

WILL WALTON. Your desire is an honest one, no doubt; but young ladies, who are prudent, will not correspond with straugers.

HAGERSTOWN GIRL. The Nine Muses were Calliope, the muse of Epic poetry and eloquence; Clio of hist ry; Melpomene, of tragedy; Euterpe, of music; Erato, of lyric poetry; Terpsichore, of dancing; Urania, of astronomy; Thalia, of comedy; and Polymnia, of singing.

ED. A. G., Elmira. Many court decisions declare that all railroad tickets are good until used, and conditions "forthis day only," or otherwise limiting the time of genuineness, are of no binding force whatever.

NAVY STREET. We know of no "steel ships"— certainly none in our own navy, or in our commer-cial marine. We are told that an English shipsmith is building, however, for the navy two dispatch boats, of which the engines, halls and boilers will be of steel throughout. FARMER STOUT, Kane Corners. Cider may be purified by isinglass—about one ounce of the latter to the gallon. Dissolve in warm water, stir gently into the cider, let it settle, and draw off the li-

into the cider, let it settle, and uraw on the fiquor.

Mrs. Dwight C. The three recipes for "English plum pudding," given in the cook book you name, are none of them of the real cld famous pudding which is yet served on holiday occasions. This is the true recipe. Out it out and keep it for your friends' use: Two pounds of stoned raisins, two pounds of ocurrants, two pounds of flour, about two pounds of bread crumbs, one-half pound of fine, most white sugar, one nutmeg, grated, a little spice, one-half pound of citron, cut in very small pleces, sixteen eggs, well beaten, one pint of new milk three wineglasses of brandy. Stir well with a wooden spoon. Do not wet the mixture too much, for if it is not very thick the fruit will settle. The currants must be rolled in a little flour before being added. It will take six hours to boil this. Boil in a bowl covered with a napkin. To be eaten hot, with wine sauce. When the pudding is brought to the table it is to be blazing with burning brandy.

CHARLIE W. Can't give a list of the works of the author named. Besides those included in the Dick Talbot series we shall reprint others from time to time, and thus again place all within your reach. Simply keep a sharp look-out for the announcement in the "Twenty Cent Novels" series.

POMERANIA. There are "rules for spelling." The formation of words is by no means hap-hazard or capricious, as you seem to think. We will, in a future issue, give you and others interested in "knowing how to spell" some of the rules which are rules to the correct formation of English words.

PAUL PRY. We have frequently given recipes for the cure of warts and corns. This cure we have not given, but it is reported to be a "dead shot" on the excreseences: Take a small piece of raw beef; steep it all night in vinegar; cut as much from it as will cover the corn or wart, and tie it on it; if the excrescence is on the forehead, fasten it with a strip of sticking-plaster. It may be removed in the day and put on every night. In one fortnight the wart or corn will die and peel off.

Miss A. M. N. See answer elsewhere (Mrs. Emma R.) Address orders to A. T. Stewart & Co., Tenth street, N. Y.—As to "the very newest" styles of hat trimming we are informed that gold, silver and steel are now in much favor. Birds and wings and bronzed or velvet leaves also form part of the trimmings. Amazone feathers are used, but they are not curled as formerly, the feather droops underneath, and only the extreme end is slightly curled. Belgian sulphur-colored guipure is used with considerable success on velvet, and even felt; this is a novelty. Any kind of white lace is also suited to the same purpose, and the effect is quite pleasing.

JNO. H. While this journal caters for all—for old readers and young—it is safe to say it gives, yearly, more good and pleasing boys' stories than any of the so-named "boys' papers." We will of course be happy to have you and your boy friends compare the current and coming issues of the SATURDAY JOURNAL with any of the papers referred to, to reassure you and them that those papers contain no stories which can vie with "Nick Whiffles' Pet," "Idaho Tom," etc.; and we can well promise that the coming new serial by Oll Coomes, viz.: "Happy Harry"—the splendid sequel to "Lance and Lasso," by Capt. Whittaker; and the "Yankee Boys in Ceylon," by C. D. Clark, will quite distance any stories of the season in interest and pleasurable excitement. JNO. H. While this journal caters for all-for old

MRS. EMMA R. There are numerous forms of bonnets, and the variety is rendered still greater by the many different ways of trimming. Felt is at present more worn than any other material, and possesses the advantage that it serves equally well for fall and for winter wear. In addition to the felt hat with large brim, called Michel Ange, there is the capote shape. The first-named, though very elegant, is a little exaggerated. The second is much more simple, and like that worn during the summer, though rather flatter over the ears; the brim forms a small cape in the back. With this shaped bonnet, ribbon-strings or mentonnieres barbes are very suitable.—We have no "purchasing bureau." Almost any regular dealer will fill an order C. O. D.

ELOISE GRAY, Buffalo, writes: "If a lady is in some place where a friend is near but cannot recognize him without a marked effort to do so, do you think he should take any offense, or consider himself slighted, that she does not recognize him? Or, if a lady is aware of the proximity of friends, should she feel compelled to put herself to any trouble to acknowledge them?" If, at some gathering, you see a friend, but are not near him, and he does not see your glance, there is no necessity for your making any "marked effort" to show recognition; nor could he, since he would not be aware that he was discovered, take offense. But if, you see a friend, and he meets your glance, you should not omit a slight motion of acknowledgment. And if a lady is aware of the "proximity" of friends, whose friendship she values, she should certainly put herself to some trouble to acknowledge their presence. ELOISE GRAY, Buffalo, writes: "If a lady is in

presence.

KITTEN, N. Y. City, asks: "In which hand should a ledy hold the bridle-rein while riding horseback; and in which hand the mailet while playing croquet?—Please tell me the meaning of un peur, beaucoup, passionement, pos du tout.—Is there anything that will remove moles without injuring the skin?—How is my composition and writing?" A lady holds a bridle-rein in her left hand; a croquet-mallet in her right.—Un peur should be written une peur, and means a fear, a dread, or a fright; beaucoup means much; passionement is properly spelled passionnement, and means passionately, fondly; pas du tout means not at all.—Nothing but excision will remove moles without injury to the skin.—Your composition is fair, your writing rather cramped.

Enurwered questions on hand will appear

Unanswered questions on hand will appear

STRANDED.

BY T. C. HARBAUGH

Just beyond the harbor bar,

Where the waves are tipped with white,
Lies the old ship, fairer far

Than the moonbeams of to-night.

See the lengthening shadows creep O'er the old hulk, water-worn; Still upon her broken peak Floats her banner, sadly torn.

In and out her port-holes grim,
Rush the angry waves with glee;
And the song they ceaseless sing
Is the triumph of the sea!

Old hulk hewn from Norway's pine Strong by hands of giants made! I could tell you how she ran Many a vigilant blockade.

In the gloom of night she struck, When the ocean gale was high Hear the crested waves to-night Sing her doleful lullaby!

I could tell you how she sailed Like a queen, the azure deep: How the saivos of her guns Startled nations from their sleep!

Once among the icebergs grim Proudly sailed yon stranded ship; Twice in balmy southern seas Did she give the foe the slip.

You can hear the wildest tales All along this heaten shore; It is said that in her hold Sleeps her gallant commodore!

Thus our voyage of life may end Just beyond our natal slips; On the breakers we may lie, Side by side—two stranded ships!

The Best of the Bargain.

BY MARY REED CROWELL

"I no declare, if it isn't too provoking! Here I have walked myself half to death, up and down, through Stewart's, and Lord & Taylor's, and dear knows where else, and not an inch of scarlet and silver tissue can I find!"

Miss Theodora Leigh leaned back against the cushions of her chocolate-lined coupe with a decidedly vexed expression on her pretty face, and frowned until her low, white forehead was all wrinkled under the fluffy, golden crepe of

Iris May lifted her gray eyes laughingly. "And you really think the world will come to an end if you fail to secure a silver and earlet tissue for the masquerade at Mrs. Hale's? Suppose you were poor, Theo, as I am, and had only one dress to wear upon all sions?"

"I believe you are just as happy as I, Iris! At any rate, you haven't to worry about the costume for Zenobia."

"No, I haven't," Iris said, softly; and by the sweet, tranquil look in her earrest gray eyes, you would know her innocent, girlish nature was yet fresh and pure, untarnished by jealousy and envy.

She was a dainty, fragile-looking little lady, with clear, fair complexion, soft and satiny as a white rose-leaf; a face that had very little of frivolity in its expression, although there was nothing unpleasant in the calm, clear gray eyes, the firm, thoughtful mouth, as red as a

"Yes, I believe you are actually happier down in your country home, with your flowers and your birds, than I with all the gayety and excitement of New York society. But what do you do with yourself, Iris, all these horridly gloomy winter days?"

A little rush of crimson pride deluged her

"I'm sure you would not call it gloomy at dear old Westlawn if you knew our charity scholars, and the sewing class, and my eld sick women, and-

Theo put her lavender kidded hand across the girl's lips.
"Iris! for pity's sake, stop! A longer cata logue would surely set me beside myself. And you actually live and endure it! Thank my

ding planet I am not a country clergy man's daughter!" Iris' sweet eyes were full of tender, wo-

manly pride would rather be papa's daughter than

any other living man's—poor though we are, Theo! Only, sometimes when I want to buy blankets and warm shawls for my old women I think how glad I would be to be rich—half as rich as you, Theo!"
"Miss Leigh folded her exquisite hands on

her little velvet muff.

"And I suppose when I marry Mr. Chisel-hurst I shall be ten times richer, child. You've seen him several times since you've been visiting us; what do you think of him?"
Iris suddenly turned her head to look out

the window into the passing crowd, and, had any one observed her, they would have wondered, perhaps, at her vividly bright eyes, her flushed, agitated face. When she answered, however, her voice was quiet and placid as ever, and her countenance as it had been

'I think Mr. Chiselhurst every way worthy of you, Theodora. I do not see how any wo-man's life could fail of being happy if spent

Theo laughed-a low, satisfied laugh 'Exactly my opinion, Iris. Would Harry be spoiled if he knew what we thought of him? By-the-by, Iris, he asked me if you would be at Mrs. Hale's; and that suggests the question

what shall you wear?" There was a brief little happiness in Iris' Was it because Mr. Chiselhurst had said that?

'I-oh! I had not thought. Possibly that ancient velvet court dress that papa's greatgrandmamma wore when she was a girl and was presented to the queen."

Theo's eyes evinced the interest she felt. "A veritable court-dress! Oh, Iris, I envy ou! What is it like?" you!

Iris smiled at Miss Leigh's impulsiveness. It is really the only thing I have to wear, you know," half apologetically. "I believe it is pale blue velvet, en train, embroidered with a sort of crystal material."

Theo clasped her hands ecstatically. "Pale blue! crystal! just my hues exactly! Iris, sell it to me—do, please." "Sell it! grandmamma's dress! Oh, Theo

how could I? Besides, what will I wear?" Miss Leigh's sudden offer had conjured so many fleeting visions. The red cedar chest at Before each desk was a chair, and some sixty home, with its carefully preserved relic of girls of all sizes and sorts sat now busily congrand old times. Her own shabby wardrobe, in which was not one dress suitable to wear to this only dissipation she ever expected to attend; where Harry Chiselaurst would be sure to be—the grave, handsome man who had been so kind to her at the Leigh's; who had rules. asked if she would be at the ball, and whom she thought was so nice.

Very well," said Theo's voice, breaking coldly upon her random thoughts; "I only thought you were so anxious about your poor And a hundred dollars would go a great ways. sixty-three heads turned and fixed themselves it, either!" said Pet, all ablaze with defiance.

horror. Theo's words had placed every thing in another light; and the thought that she needed prompting by a worldly girl of fashion and no religious profession, and she, her own self, a Christian, vowed to forego the vanities of the world, vowed to self-denial and char-

She, a poor, plain, country girl; the daughter of an obscure country clergyman, to be thus approached by Theo Leigh!

A moment of painful self-reproval; a moment of girlish regretfulness as her heart would make her acknowledge how happy she would have been had Mr. Chiselhurst—perhaps—asked her to dance; two big crystal tears clearer and brighter than their counterparts on the blue velvet dress—and then, bravery and principle and true womanliness conquered.

"I was very childish, I guess, Theo, to refuse your kind offer for a moment. I will send for the dress at once, and we'll have a nice time fixing it over."

Theo puckered her forehead up in a host of funny little frowns.

I don't think I quite know you, Iris May. What shall you wear now?"

A little, happy laugh told how thoroughly this true, good girl enjoyed her sacrifice.

"I shall not go at all, now. Really, I. shall enjoy myself amazingly in your big, elegant drawing-room all by myself, making my plans for the most economical disbursement of my hundred dollars,"

"I think I never saw you look so well before, Theo. Where in the world did you come and resumed the across that delightfully antiquated toilet? I thought my 'Amy Robsart' would take the girl's curiosity. palm, but you've excelled that lady. Is my mask straight, Theo?"

It was a gay, girlish voice that addressed Miss Leigh, as the two ladies stood in the bay window of Mrs. Hale's dancing saloon; while ear by was a tall, handsomely dressed gentleman in a gorgeous attire, representing Hen-

He had paused, carelessly toying with his jeweled sword, at the sound of Theo Leigh's

"So that is Thee? I can indorse the opinion of that young lady. Theo never looked better in her life. But I wonder where little

Mr. Chiselhurst looked sharply through the eyeholes of his black satin mask, and his face wore a remarkably dissatisfied expres-

"Your mask is straight, Nell-is mine? Yes; isn't my tostume elegant? and I came across it so oddly, too. Don't ever say a word, but I bought it of Iris May. It was a family curiosity, you know, and she was going to wear it herself."

Henry VIII listened eagerly, and his eyes brightened to think how fair the little grayeyed girl would have looked in the dainty blue

"Then how in the world did you come to

buy it?"
Chiselhurst heard Theo's low, musical

"Well—I wanted it, you see, and Iris pre-ferred to have a hundred dollars for her driveling old women down at Westlawn She's a sanctimonious little thing, but for all that, there is plenty of human nature in her. You ought to have seen her brighten up when I asked her what she thought of my handsome

ver!"
"Is Chiselhurst here?" Nell asked, eagerly. Are you engaged yet, or—"
The two walked slowly off, and Henry VIII watched them away.

A graceful, girlish figure nestling in a capacious arm-chair in front of the cheery grate, and a pair of gray eyes peering out from under heavy black lashes

A restful, gracious sight, that made Mr. Chiselhurst's heart thrill, as, fresh from the heat and glare of the ball-room he stood, silently waiting for Iris to learn of his presence.

sigh, low, weary, came to his ears, and he stepped to her side.
"Don't be alarmed, Miss Iris; it is only I—

come from the masquerade because there was o one there. Have I startled you?" Her glowing cheeks and happy eyes might have answered him.

"Oh, no! but is there no one there, yet Theo went an hour ago.' He doffed his graceful velvet, feathered toque, and sat down on a hassock at her feet—like some Fairy Prince in his gorgeous at-

with his handsome, interesting face. Iris' heart was throbbing at sight of him—it was so strange, so sweet, so like an enchanted dream to be there alone with him. "I mean there is no one there for me. Iris. The only one I want and came to plead for is here, right beside me. May I take her, Iris?

Will she not confess that she loves me as

And, although happy little Iris insists it is the story of King Cophetua over again, Harry assures her that her sweet, sacrificing spirit makes him all unworthy of such a treasure as she is, while Theo Leigh wishes she had never heard of the old blue dress—although there is no doubt but that the inevitable end was only hastened, and not caused by Iris' noble

self-denial.

Erminie: THE GIPSY QUEEN'S VOW.

BY MRS. MAY AGNES FLEMING, AUTHOR OF "THE DARK SECRET," "AN AW-FUL MYSTERY," "VICTORIA," ETC., ETC.

CHAPTER XXI. PET BEGINS HER EDUCATION.

"A horrid specter rises to my sight." "I hear a knocking in the south entry. Hark! more knocking!"—MACBETH THROWING open the folding doors, Mrs

Moodie passed into the school-room, closely followed by Pet. It was a long, high, wide room, with desks running round the walls, and maps, globes, books and slates scattered profusely around.

ning their lessons. Two or three teachers sat in various direc tions, round the room, before little tables, with their eyes fixed on the students, ready to note down the slightest infringement of the

It was seldom the commander-in-chief of the establishment swept her silken flounces through the hot, dusty classe; and now, according to coldly upon her random thoughts; "I only thought you were so anxious about your poor old women, and your lack of funds, and so on." the long-established rule, teachers and pupils to everybody here if you ain't! I ain't used ly to that august lady. Then every eye in to hold my tongue—and I'm not going to do

Iris gave a little conscience-stricken gasp of orror. Theo's words had placed every thing another light; and the thought that she motest degree troubled with that disagreeable failing, yelept bashfulness; and glancing round composedly, she swept the whole room at a glance, and returned every stare with compound interest.

"Young ladies," said Mrs. Moodie, with a graceful wave of her hand toward Pet, "this young lady is Miss Petronilla Lawless, of Judestown, and will be your future companion and fellow-pupil. I hope you will be mutually pleased with each other, and try to make her

at home among you as soon as possible. Miss Sharp, she will enter your division." And, with a stately bow of her beribboned head, Mrs. Moodie rustled loudly from the room, while teachers and pupils again bowed

in deepest reverence. Pet gave an assenting nod to Mrs. Moodie's emarks, which had the effect of making two or three of the young ladies indulge in a little giggle behind their handkerchiefs. Then, from distant corner, came a small, keen, wirylooking human terrier, known by the appro-priate cognomen of Miss Sharpe, who immediately laid hands upon Pet, saying:

"Miss Lawless, come this way. You are to enter my class."

Pet, as good a physiognomist as ever lived, raised her keen eyes to the cantankerous face of the cross-looking old-young lady, and conceived, upon the spot, a most intense dislike to her. The other girls, at a silent motion from their teachers, had dropped into their seats, and resumed their studies—still, however, covertly watching the new pupil with all a school-girl's quriosity.

Pet was led by sharp Miss Sharpe to the remote corner from whence she had issued, and where sat some dozen or two "juvenile ladies, all smaller than Pet. Miss Lawless looked at them a moment in undisguised contempt, and then stopped short, jerked herself free from Miss Sharpe's grasp, and coming to a sudden stand-still, decidedly began:

"I ain't a-going to sit among them there lit-

tle things. I want to go over there!'

And she pointed to where a number of young ladies, whose ages might have varied from seventeen to twenty, sat in the "First Divi sion,'

A very little thing will produce a laugh in a silent school-room, where the pupils are ever ready to laugh at anything a new scholar does or says; and the effect of this brief speech was a universal burst of subdued laughter from the sixty "young ladies" aforesaid.

"Well, you can't go there!" said Miss Sharpe, sharply, looking daggers at Pet. "You are to sit in my division—which is the low-

"Yes, I see it is," said Pet; "but you need-n't get so across about it. I should think, when my papa pays for me, I could sit wher-ever I like. I'm sure this hot old room, with-out even a carpet on the floor, ain't much of a place to sit in, anyway."

Another universal laugh, louder than the

first, followed this; and the sixty pairs of eyes flashed with wicked delight—for Miss Sharpe was the detestation of the school.

"Silence!" called the head monitor, sternly. Miss Sharpe clutched Pet's shoulder with no gentle hand, and jerked her into a seat with an angry scowl.

"You must keep silence, Miss Lawless," she began, with asperity. "Young ladies are not allowed to talk in the class-room. You will have to sit wherever you are placed, and make no complaints. Such rude behavior is not allowed here. Hold your tongue, now, and read

Hereupon she took from her table the "First Book of Lessons," and put it into Pet's hand, with another scowl, darker, if possible, than the first.

Pet took it, and holding it upside down for a while, seemed to be intently studying, thinking all the while that life in a school-room was not only as pleasant, but considerably pleasant-

er, than she had anticipated. But for Pet Lawless to keep of time was simply a moral impossibility; finding the cross teacher's lynx eyes turned for a moment the other way, she bent over toward her next neighbor, a little red-eyed, red-haired girl, about her own age, and whispered, in strict confidence, pointing to Miss Sharpe:

"Ain't she a horrid cross old thing?" But the young lady only glanced askance at the audacious little law-breaker at her side, and edged nervously away from her.

Petronilla not being easily affronted or slighted, however, came close to little red-head, and holding her book to her mouth, whispered again: "Does she ever whip you, or anything? She

looks cross enough to do it. Ain't it awful, Seeing there was no escape from her perse cutor, red-head thrust her knuckles into her

eyes and began to cry. "What's the matter new?" said the teacher, turning sharply round, and looking threateningly at Pet.

"Why, Miss Sharpe, she keeps a-talking to me all the time, and won't stop," whispered the unhappy owner of the red hair.
"What is she saying?" said Miss Sharpe, in a quick, irritated voice, that strongly remind-

ed Pet of Dismal Hollow and Miss Priscilla Toosypegs. "She—she—she says you're a—a—a horrid cross old thing, please, ma'am!" wept the little one, digging her knuckles still further into her

eyes.

Miss Sharpe's face grew black as a thundercloud—owing to her peculiar complexion, she generally blushed black, or deep orange. In all her thirteen years' teaching, she had she's an her thirteen years teaching, she had never encountered a pupil who had dared to call her a "horrid cross old thing" before.

Old!—that was the worst. To be called so before the whole school, too! Miss Sharpe sat trouble. "Such stuff! You must not terrify for one awful moment perfectly speechless with rage, and so black in the face that there seemed serious danger of her bursting a bloodvessel on the spot.

Once again a loud laugh, that would not be restrained, came from the sixty pretty mouths of the sixty young ladies so often spoken of. Even the teachers, although they sternly called "silence!" were forced to cough violently, to hide the smile that was creeping over their

faces at Miss Sharpe's rage.

Meantime, our dauntless Pet sat with a sort of head-up-and-heels-down look, that was a sight to see; her arms akimbo, and her bright lack eyes blazing with defiance, daringly riveted on the face of the justly-offended te 'Did-did you dare to say that, you-you

impudent, impertinent-young saucy-'Abandoned, outrageous son of a gun!" put in Pet, composedly.

"Silence! Did you dare to call me thatthat name?" "I didn't call you any name-I said you

Miss Sharpe sat, unable to speak, her rage almost swamped in her utter amazement. In all her experience she had never come across so desperate and utterly depraved a case as this. Every book was dropped, and every eye fixed on Pet. Even the other teachers, unable longer to repress their smiles, exchanged glances of surprise, and watched with interest and curiosity, the little original, who sat staring at Miss Sharpe as if for a wager.

"I—I won't endure this! I am not to be insulted in this manner!" said Miss Sharpe, rising passionately. "I'll go and report her to Mrs. Moodie; and either she or I must leave

'My dear Miss Sharpe, be calm," said the head teacher, a pleasant-faced young girl, as she rose and came over. "There is no use in troubling Mrs. Moodie about the matter. little girl, you perceive, has been indulged and spoiled all her life, and cannot readily submit to authority now. My dear," she added, turning to Pet, "you must sit still and not talk. It is against the rules; and you perceive you are giving Miss Sharma a great deal of trous are giving Miss Sharpe a great deal of trou-

"Well, so is she, just as bad! She's giving me a great deal of trouble, too! I want to go and sit in your class."

"But you can't sit in my class, Miss Law-less. You must keep the place allotted you. Little girls should be docile and obedient, you know, and do as they are told. Will you sit still now, and be quiet?" "Yes; if she lets me alone!" pointing to

Miss Sharpe.

"You must do as your teacher says, child.

Now, do be a good little girl, and don't talk."

And the sweet-voiced young lady patted Pet's black curly head kindly, and went back to her

Miss Sharpe, looking as if she would like to pounce upon Pet, and pound the life out of her, relapsed scowling into her seat; and Pet, curling her lip contemptuously at the cross teacher, took a lead pencil out of her pocket, and egan amusing herself drawing caricatures of

her all over the book she held in her hand. A profound silence again fell on the hot. close classe, and the girls bent over to-mor-row's tasks; now and then, however, smiling row's tasks; now and then, however, smiling slyly at each other, and glancing significantly at the new-comer, whose short half-hour in school had already created a sensation quite unparalleled in all the past history of the establishment, and which was destined to fill sixty letters home to "papa and mamma" next time they wrote. Then, in half an hour more, a bell loudly rung, and every girl jumped eagerly up. This was the signal that school for the day was dismissed; and books, slates and pencils were hustled hastily out of sight; and two by two the girls marched through the now open folding-doors, beginning with the tallest, through the long hall down the staircase, through another hall out of a side-room, and into an immense play-ground, furnished with swings, skipping-ropes, hoops, and everything else necessary for recreation and amusement. But no longer were hoops, and swings, and skipping-ropes seized with loud shouts as here-

tofore; newer and more attractive game was in view now, and every one crowded around our Pet, surveying her with open eyes, as if it?" she were some natural curiosity.

But Pet had no intention of standing there

to be looked at and cross-questioned; and breaking through the ring with the yell of an Ojibewa Indian, she sprung into one of the swings, and invited "some of 'em to come and swing her."

Like hops in beer, Pet's presence seemed to throw the whole assembly in a ferment hither-to unknown. The swings flew wildly; the skipping-ropes went up and down with lightning-like velocity; the hoops whirled and flew over the ground in a way that must have astonished even themselves, if hoops ever can be astonished. The girls raced, and ran, and skipped, and laughed as they had never done before; and the noise and uproar waxed "fast and furious." And wherever the fun was highest, the laughter loudest, the excitement and origin of it all. Cross Miss Sharpe, who had been sent out to look after them, and see that none of them broke their necks, if possi ble, wrung her hands in despair at the awful din, and rushed hither and thither, scolding, shaking, threatening, and vociferating at the top of her lungs; but all in vain. They were every one going crazy—that was evident; and that little minx, who had come there that day to throw the whole school in convulsions, was

the cause of it all. But even school-girls, with lungs, and throats, and faces very often of brass, must get exhausted at last; and after an hour's steady screaming and yelling, the whole as-semblage shrieked, laughed, and shouted them-

selves into hoarseness and comparative quiet. Pet, somewhat fatigued after her exertions. was seated in the midst of a group of girls telling, in solemn tones, a most awful "raw head and bloody bones" ghost-story, which she "made up" as she went along, and which was destined to deprive at least twenty little

individuals of a wink of sleep that night Every one was bending eagerly forward, listening breathlessly to Pet, who had just got "Jack" into the "haunted castle," and was announcing the coming of a "great big black man, with red-hot coals for eyes, and flames of fire coming out of his mouth," a thin, sharp shadow fell over them, and, look ing up with a terrified start, they beheld Miss

Sharpe standing over them. "What is she talking about now?" queried that lady, with no very amiable glances toward

"She's telling a ghost story; that's what she's talking about!" said Pet, instantly begin-

the children by telling them such things, little

"It's not stuff!" said Pet; "it's as true as preaching. I've seen lots of ghosts myself.
There, now!" "Miss Lawless, do you know where little girls that tell fibs go to?" said Miss Sharpe,

"Yes, the same place you'll go to, I ex-ect," said Pet, pertly; "but I ain't telling pect," said Pet, pertly; "but I ain't telling fibs—I never do. And I have seen plenty of ghosts, too. There's a whole settlement of them out where we live. I only wish I had brought some of them to school with me, and then you would see. That's all!"

"You naughty little girl" said Miss Sharpe, angrily, "How dare you tell me such a story? You have seen ghosts, indeed! Why, every-

body knows there is no such thing."
"What do you bet there's not?" said Pet. "Miss Lawless, you forget to whom you are speaking!" said Miss Sharpe, with dignity. "No, I don't; I know very well to whom I

am speaking," said Pet, imitating her tone "and I know just as well there are ghosts. They're great, tall, thin people, in white, with hollow eyes, that come at midnight and scare

people. I've seen them, and I guess I ought to know.

Miss Sharpe, disdaining an altercation with the elf, who was already bristling up in antici-pation of a controversy, turned and walked away majestically, or, at least, as majestically as her four feet eight inches would allow.

Pet looked after her with a boding eye that told wonderful tales, if she could only have read it; but she contented herself with mentally exclaiming:
"Oh, I'll dose you! Maybe you won't see a

ghost to-night, old Miss Vinegar." "There, now, go on with the story," chorused half a dozen voices, when Miss Sharpe

was gone.
"See here," said Pet, without heeding the request, "where does she—Miss Sharpe I mean

-sleep at night?"

"With us," said one of the small girls, "in the children's dormitory. The large girls have rooms to themselves, every two of them; but we sleep in a long room all full of beds, and Miss Sharpe sleeps there, too."

"Hum-m-m! Do you know where I am to

sleep?"
"Yes; all Miss Sharpe's division sleep in the children's dormitory. You'll be there,"
"'Um-m-m! I should like to see the place.

Would we be let?"
"Oh, yes. If you can get one of the girls in the First Division to go with you, she can take you all over the house."
Off ran Pet, and without much difficulty she persuaded one of the First Division girls to

show her through the house The first place they visited was the children's dormitory. This was a long room, with rows of white-curtained beds on either side for the children, and one larger than the rest, at the further end, for Miss Sharpe. Small washstands and mirrors were scattered around, and

near each bed was placed a small trunk be-longing to the children.

Pet scanned these arrangements with a thoughtful eye. Then, turning to her cicerone,

she said: "In which of the beds am I to sleep?" "In this one," said the girl, indicating one at the extreme end of the room, opposite Miss Sharpe's. The room was full; so they had to

put it close to the window, and you will have a chance to see everybody that passes." Pet went over to examine. Within a few inches of the bed was a window overlooking the street. It was partly raised now, and Pet thrust her head out to "see what she could see," as they say. The first thing that struck her was the fact that the window was in a straight line above the hall door, and only removed from it the distance of a foot or two. Instantly a demoniacal project of mischief flashed across her fertile brain; and as she withdrew her head her wicked eyes, under their long, drooping lashes, were fairly scintil-lating with the anticipation of coming fun.

"Do they use bells or knockers on their doors, around here?" she carelessly asked, as she flitted about.

"Some use one, some the other. There is a large brass-knocker on this door. I am sure you must have seen it." "I had forgotten. This is my trunk, isn't "Yes."

"What time do they go to bed here?"
"Nine in summer—eight in winter."
"Hum-m-m! I know now. And do they stay out in that yard all the time?"
"Oh, no. As soon as it gets dusk we come

"Oh, no. As soon as it gets dusk we come in, have supper, and then the larger girls practice their music, or read, or write to their friends, or study, or sew, or do whatever they like; and the little girls of your division play about the halls and passages."

"Um-m-m! I see," said Pet, in the same musing tone, while her wicked eyes, under their long, dark lashes, were twinkling with the very spirit of mischief. "Could you get me a good long cord, do you think? I want it me a good long cord, do you think? I want it

"Yes, I think so. Do you want it now?" "Yes, please."
"Very well; wait here till I go up to my room and get it for you," said the unsuspecting

young lady "Oh, ching-a-ring-a-ring-chaw!" shouted Pet, dancing round the long room with irre-pressible glee, when she found herself alone. "Oh, won't I have fun to-night! Won't I show them what spiritual rapping is! Won't there be weeping and gnashing of teeth before morning!

" Mrs. MacShuttle. She lived in a scuttle, Along with her dog and her cat.'"

sung the imp, seizing a huge pitcher from one of the washstands, and flourishing it over her head as she sung. Round and round she until her pitcher came furiously against the wall, and smash! in a thousand fragments it fell on the floor.

Arrested in her dance, Firefly stood still one moment, in dismay. Here was a winding-up of her extempore waltz quite unlooked for. There on the floor lay the pitcher, shivered into atoms, and there stood Pet, holding the handle still, and glancing utterly aghast from the ruins on the floor to the fragment of crock-

ery in her hand.
"Whew! here's a go!" was the elegant expression first jerked out of Pet by the exigency of the case. I expect this pitcher's been in the establishment ever since it was an establishment, and would have been in it as much longer only for me. Pet, child, look out! There'll be murder, distraction, and a tearing off of our shirts! Fall of Jerusalem! won't Miss

Sharpe give me a blowing up, though!"
"Oh, Miss Lawless! what have you done?"
cried the young lady, in tones of consternation, as she suddenly entered. 'Smashed the crockery," said Pet, coolly

pointing to the wreck "Oh, dear me! Oh, Miss Lawless! how could 'Didn't go for to do it. Got smashed itself.

"Miss Sharpe will be very angry, Miss Lawless. "Well, that don't worry me much," said Pet.
"I am afraid she will blame me. I should not have left you here alone," said the young lady, twisting her fingers in distress.

"No, she won't. I'll send out and buy another one." "Oh, you can't. The servants are not allowed to run errands for the young ladies without permission from Mrs. Moodie. You

will have to tell Miss Sharpe. 'Well, come along then; I'll tell her. Did you bring the string? "Yes, here it is. Oh, Miss Lawless! I am exceedingly sorry."

"Well—my goodness! you needn't be. An old blue pitcher! I used to throw half a dozen of them, every day, at the servants, at home, and nobody ever made a fuss about it. A common old blue pitcher—humph!"

"Oh! but it was different at home. They were your own, there; and Miss Sharpe is so —queer. She will scold you dreadfully."
"Well, so will I, then—there! I can scold

By this time they had reached the playground; and making her way through the crowd, Pet marched resolutely up to Miss Sharpe, and confronted that lady with an expression as severe as though she were about to have her arrested for high treason.

"Miss Sharpe, look here!" she began. "I've been up-stairs and smashed an old blue pitcher.

There! "What!" said Miss Sharpe, knitting her

brows, and rather at a loss.
"Miss Lawless was in the children's dormi tory, Miss Sharpe," explained the girl who had been Pet's guide, "and she accidentally broke one of the pitchers. She could not help it, I

"But I know she could help it," screamed Miss Sharpe. "She has done it on purpose, just to provoke me. Oh, you little limb you -you unbearable little mischief-maker!

deserve to be whipped till you can't stand," "See here, Miss Sharpe; you'll be hoarse pretty soon, if you keep screaming that way,"

said Pet, calmly.
"I'll go and tell Mrs. Moodie. I'll go this minute. Such conduct as this, you'll see, will not be tolerated here," shrieked the exaspershaking her fist furiously at Pet. 'Mrs. Moodie has gone out," said one of the

Then I'll tell her to-morrow. I'll-" Here the loud ringing of a bell put a stop to further declamation, and the girls all flew, flocking in, and marched, two by two, into another large room, where a long supper-table

was laid out. It was almost dark when the evening meal was over. Then the larger girls dispersed themselves to their various avocations, and the younger ones, under the care of a gentler monitor than Miss Sharpe, raced about the long halls and passages, and up and down-

Now was the time Pet had been waiting for. Gliding, unobserved, up-stairs, she entered the dormitory, and securing one end of the string to the bed-post, let the remainder drop out of the window. Then returning down-stairs, she passed unnoticed through the front hall, and finally secured the other end of the string to the knocker of the door. It was too dark, as she knew, for any one to observe

the cord in opening the door.

This done, she returned to her companions, all aglow with delight at her success so far and instigated by her, the din and uproar soon grew perfectly unbearable, and the whole phalanx were ordered off to bed half an hour

earlier than usual, to get rid of the noise. As Judge Lawless had said, it was a rigidly strict establishment; and the rule was that, at half-past nine, every light should be extinguished, and all should be safely tucked up in bed. Even Mrs. Moodie herself was no exception to this rule; for, either thinking example better than precept, or being fond of sleeping, ten o'clock always found her in the arms of

Therefore, at ten o'clock, silence, and darkness, and slumber, hung over the establishment of Mrs. Moodie. In the children's dormitory, nestling in their white-draped beds, the little tired pupils were sleeping the calm, quiet sleep of childhood, undisturbed by fever-ish thoughts or gloomy forebodings of the morrow. Even Miss Sharpe had testily permitted herself to fall stiffly asleep, and lay with her mouth open, stretched out as straight as a ramrod, and about as grim. All were

One wicked, curly, mischief-brewing little head there was by far too full of naughty Pet, nestling on her pillow, was actually quivering with suppressed delight at the coming fun.

She heard ten o'clock-eleven strike, and then she got up in bed and commenced operations. Her first care was to steal softly to one of the washstands, and thoroughly wet a sponge, which she placed on the w occasion to use it.

Taking some phosphureted ether, which she had procured for the purpose of "fun" before leaving home, she rubbed it carefully over her

Reader, did you ever see any one in the dark with their faces and hands rubbed over with phosphureted ether? looking as though they were all on fire—all encircled by flames? If you have, then you know how our Pet looked

Sitting there, a frightful object to contemplate, she waited impatiently for the hour of midnight to come.

The clock struck twelve, at last; the silence was so profound that the low, soft breathing of the young sleepers around her could be plainly heard. In her long, flowing nightwrapper, Pet got up and tiptoed softly across the room to the bed where the cross she-dragon

Now, our Pet never thought there could be the slightest danger in what she was about to do, or, wild as she was, she would most assuredly not have done it. She merely wished to frighten Miss Sharpe for her obstinacy, unbelief in ghosts and crossness, and never gave the matter another thought. Therefore, though it was altogether an inexcusable trick, still Pet was not so very much to blame as may at first appear.

Now she paused for a moment to contemplate the sour, grim-looking sleeper-thinking her even more repulsive in sleep than when awake; and then laying one hand on her face, she uttered a low, hollow groan, destined for

Miss Sharpe, awakened from a deep sleep by the disagreeable and startling conscious ness of an icy-cold hand on her face, started up in affright, and then she beheld an awful vision! A white specter by her bedside, all in fire, with flames encircling face and hands, and sparks of fire seemingly darting from eyes

For one terrible moment she was unable to utter a sound for utter, unspeakable horror. with one wild, piercing shriek, she buried her head under the clothes, to shut out the awful specter. Such a shriek as it was No hyena, no screech-owl, no peacock ever ut-tered so ear-splitting, throat-rending a scream as that. No word or words in the whole En glish language can give the faintest idea of that terrible screech. Before its last vibration had died away on the air, every sleeper in the establishment, including madame herself, had sprung out of bed, and stood pale and trembling, listening for a repetition of that awful From twenty beds in the dormitory. twenty little sleepers sprung, and immediately began to make night hideous with small editions of Miss Sharpe's shriek. Gathering strength from numbers, the twenty voice rose an octave higher at every scream, and yell after yell, in the shrillest soprano, pierced the air, although not one of them had the remotest idea of what it was all about.

At the first alarm, Firefly had flitted swiftly and fleetly across the room, jumped into bed, and seizing the sponge, gave her face and hands a vigorous rubbing; and now stood screaming with the rest, not to say consider-

ably louder than any of them.
"Oh, Miss Sharpe, get up! the house is afire! we're all murdered in our beds!" yelled Pet, going over and catching that lady by the

shoulder with a vigorous shake And "Oh, Miss Sharpe! Oh, Miss Sharpe! Get up. Oh-oh-oh!" shrieked the terrified children, clustering round the bed, and those who could springing in and shaking her.

With a disagreeable sense of being half rushed to death, Miss Sharpe was induced to remove her head from under the clothes, and cast a quick, terrified glance around. But the coast was clear—the awful specter was

And now another noise met her ears-the coming footsteps of every one within the walls of the establishment, from Mrs. Moedie down to the little maid-of-all-work in the kitchen. In they rushed, armed with bedroom-candle sticks, rulers, ink-bottles, slate-frames, and various other warlike weapons, prepared to do

battle to the last gasp.

And then it was: "Oh, what on earth is the matter? What on earth is the matter? What

is the matter?" from every lip.

Miss Sharp sprung out of bed and fled in terror to the side of Mrs. Moodie.

'Oh, Mrs. Moodie, it was awful! Oh, it was dreadful! With flames of fire coming out of its mouth, and all dressed in white. was terrible! Ten feet high, and all in flames! shrieked Miss Sharpe, like one demented.

"Miss Sharpe, what in the name of Heaver is all this about?" asked the startled Mrs. Moodie, while the sixty "young ladies" clung together, white with mortal fear.

"Oh, Mrs. Moodie, I've seen it! It was frightful! all in flames of fire!" screamed the terrified Miss Sharpe.

"Seen it! seen what? Explain yourself, Miss Sharpe."

"Oh, it was a ghost! a spirit! a demon! a flend! I felt its blazing hands cold as ice on my face. Oh, good Heaven!" And again

Miss Sharpe's shriek at the recollection resounded through the room. "Blazing hands cold as ice! Miss Sharpe

you are crazy! Calm yourself, I command you, and explain why we are all roused out of our beds at this hour of the night by your shrieks," said Mrs. Moodie, fixing her sharp eyes steadily upon her. That look of rising anger brought Miss Sharpe to her senses. Wringing her hands,

"Oh, I saw a ghost, Mrs. Moodie; an awful ghost! It came to my bedside all on fire,

"A ghost! nonsense, Miss Sharpe!" broke out the now thoroughly enraged Mrs. Moodie, as she caught Miss Sharpe by the shoulder, and shook her soundly. "You have been and shook her soundly. "You have been dreaming; you have had the nightmare; you are crazy! A pretty thing, indeed! that the whole house is to be aroused and terrifled in this way. I am ashamed of you, Miss Sharpe, and you ought to be ashamed of yourself to terrify those little children committed to your charge in this manner. I never heard of anything so abominable in my life before," said

the angry Mrs. Moodie.
"Oh, indeed, indeed I saw it! Oh, indeed, indeed I did!" protested Miss Sharpe, wringing

her hands. "Silence, Miss Sharpe! don't make a fool of yourself! I'm surprised at you! a woman of your years giving way to such silly fancies. You saw it, indeed! A nice teacher you are to watch young children! Return to your beds, young ladies; and do you, Miss Sharpe, return to yours; and don't let me ever hear anything more about ghosts, or I shall instantly dismiss you. Ghosts, indeed! you're a downright fool, Miss Sharpe—that's what you are!" exclaimed the exasperated lady.

But even the threat of dismissal could not totally overcome Miss Sharpe's fears now, and catching hold of Mrs. Moodie's night-robe within her reach, knowing she would soon have as she was turning away, she wildly exclaimed:

"Oh, Mrs. Moodie, let us have a light in the room for this night at least! I cannot sleep a

wink unless you do.' "Miss Sharpe, hold your tongue! Do you see how you have frightened these children? Go to bed and mind your business. Young ladies, I think I told you before to go to you rooms-did I not?" said Mrs. Moodie, with

still increasing anger. Trembling and terrified, the girls scampered like frightened doves back to their nests; and Mrs. Moodie, outraged and indignant, tramped her way to the bed she had so lately vacated, inwardly vowing to discharge Miss Sharpe as soon as ever she could get another

to take her place. And then the children in the dormitory crept shivering into bed, and wrapped their neads up in the bedclothes, trembling at every And Miss Sharpe, quivering in dread, sound. shrunk into the smallest possible space in hers, and having twisted herself into a round ball under the quilts, tightly shut her eyes, and firmly resolved that nothing in the earth, or in the waters under the earth, should make her open those eyes again that night. And vicked Firefly, chuckling inwardly over the success of her plot, jumped into hers,

thinking of the fun yet to come An hour passed. One o'clock struck; then two, before sleep began to visit the drowsy eyelids of the roused slumberers again. ng assured herself that they had really fallen asleep at last, Pet sat up in bed softly, opened the window an inch or two, screened from view—had any one been watching her, which there was not-by the white curtains of the

Then, lying composedly back on her pillow, she took hold of her string, and began pull-

ing away.

Knock! knock! knock! Rap! rap!

rap! rap! rap!
The clamor was deafening; the music was awful at that silent hour of the night. Up and down the huge brass knocker thundered, wak-ing a peal of echoes that rung and rung through the house.

Once again the house was aroused; once again every sleeper sprung out of bed, in ter-ror, wonder, and consternation.

"Oh, holy saints! what is that? Oh, good heavens! what can that be at this time?" came heavens! what can black simultaneously from every lip.

louder and louder still. Every girl flitted from her room, and a uni-

versal rush was made for the apartments of Mrs. Moodie-all but the inmates of the dormitory. Miss Sharpe was too terrified to stir, and the children, following her lead, contented themselves with lying still, and renewing their screams where they had left them off an hour

or so before. Now Mrs. Moodie, half-distracted, rushed out, and encountered her forty terrified pupils in the hall.

"Oh, Mrs. Moodie! what has happened tonight? We will all be killed! Oh, listen to

Knock! knock! knock! knock! The clamor was deafening. "We had better open the door, or they will break it down!" said Mrs. Moodie, her teeth

chattering with terror. "Send for Bridget; she is afraid of nothing!" suggested one of the trembling girls. Two or three of the most courageous made a rush for the kitchen; and Bridget—a strapping nymph of five feet nine, and "stout according"—was routed out of bed, to storm the

breech. Faith, thin, I'll open the door, if it was the divil himself!" exclaimed Bridget, reso tutely, as she grasped the poker, and, like the leader of a forlorn hope, turned the key in the

Back she swung it with a jerk. The knocking instantly ceased. Up flew the po-ker, and down it descended with a whack, upon-vacancy! There was no one there! "The Lord be between us an' harm!" ex claimed Bridget, recoiling back. a one's there, good, bad, or indifferint!"

"They must have run away when you opened the door!" said Mrs. Moodie, in trembling tones. "There is certainly some one

Bridget descended the steps, and looked up and down the street; but all was silent, lone-ly, and deserted—not a living creature was to seen, "Come in, and lock the door," said the ap-

palled Mrs. Moodie. "What in the name of Heaven could it have been ?" "Oh, the house is haunted!—the house is haunted!" came from the white lips of the young ladies. "Oh, Mrs. Moodie! do not ask

us to go back to our rooms. We dare not. Let us stay with you until morning!"
"Very well," said Mrs. Moodie, not sorry to have company; "come into my room. Bridget, bring lights."

The door was unlocked. The frightened girls hustled, pale, and frightened, and shivering with superstition, awe, and undefined apprehension, into Mrs. Moodie's room; while that lady herself, crouching in their midst, was scarcely less terrified than they. Bridget brought in lights; and their coming renewed

the courage the darkness had totally quenched. "Now, Mistress Moodie, ma'am," said Bridget, crossing her arms with grim determination, "I'm goin' to sit at that door till morn in', if its plazin to ye, and if thim black guardly spalpeens comes knockin' dacint people out av their beds ag'in, be this an' that, I'll l'ave the mark of me five fingers or

thim, as sure as my name's Biddy Malone!" "Very well, Bridget," said Mrs. Moodie "It may be some wickedly-disposed person wishing to frighten the young ladies; and if it is, the heaviest penalties of the law shall be

inflicted on them."

Arming herself with the poker, Bridget oftly turned the key in the door, and laid her hand on the lock, ready to open it at a

second's notice. Scarcely had she taken her stand, when knock! knock! it began again; but the third rap was abruptly cut short by her violently jerking the door open, and lifting the poker for a blow that would have done honor to Donny-brook Fair. But a second time it fell, with a loud crack, wpon—nothing! Far or near, not a soul was to be seen. Bridget was dismay-For the first time in her life, a sensation of terror filled her brave Irish heart. ming the door violently to, she locked it again, and rushed, with open eyes and mouth into the room where the terror-stricken mistress and pupils sat, mute with fear.
"Faith, it's the divil himself that's at it!

Lord pardon me for namin' him! Och, holy martyrs! look down on us this night for a poor, disconsolate set ov craythers, and the Cross of Christ be between us and all harm!" And dropping a little bob of a courtesy, Bridget devoutly cut the sign of the cross on her forehead with her thumb.

Unable to speak or move with terror, mistress, pupils, and servants crouched together, longing and praying wildly for morning

Again the knocking commenced, and continued, without intermission, for one whole mortal hour. Even the neighbors began to be alarmed at the unusual din, and windows were opened, and night-capped heads thrust out to ee who it was who knocked so incessantly Three o'clock struck, and then, Pet beginning to feel terribly sleepy, and quite satisfied with the fun she had had all night, cut the cord, and drew it up. The clamors, of course, instantly ceased; and five minutes after, Firefly, the wicked cause of all this trouble, was peac

fully sleeping.

But no other eye in the house was destined to close that night—or, rather, morning. Huddled together below, the frightened flock waited for the first glimpse of morning sunlight, thinking all the while that never was there a night so long as that. Up in the children's dormitory, all-from Miss Sharpe downward-lay in a cold perspiration of dread, trembling to stay where they were, yet, not daring to get up and join their compan-

"I'll never stay another night in this dreadful place if I only live to see morning!" was the inward exclamation of every teacher and pupil who could by any means leave.

And so, in sleepless watchfulness, the dark, silent hours of morning wore on; and the first bright ray of another day's sunlight streaming in through the windows, never beheld an as-semblage of paler or more terrified faces than were gathered together in the establishment of Mrs. Moodie.

(To be continued-commenced in No. 290.)

Nick Whiffles' Pet: NED HAZEL, THE BOY TRAPPER.

BY CAPT. J. F. C. ADAMS. CHAPTER XIII.

THE next morning after the meeting of Miona and Ned Hazel, the lad went early to the trap that had been visited by her. He found a squealing beaver in it, but there was no kind hand near to set it free. He let it cry for a while in the hope of drawing his visitor

to the spot. But, although he waited some time, she came not, and he was compelled to kill and carry it home. The same thing took place on second morning, but the third saw his ardent wishes gratified.

There was no beaver in his trap, and he stood feeling as grieved and disappointed as a young gentleman could well feel whose dearest hopes had been blasted, and who was ready to lie down and die in despair.

eyes and saw two persons standing before of her companion.

him. One was the Phantom Princess, and the other was Miona, her daughter. They were standing side by side, neither dressed in white, but both in the brilliantly colored dress of the Blackfoot squaws who stood high in the graces

Ned blushed, and saluted them with natural

gallantry. Myra said:
"I am looking for Nick Whiffles; is he at home?"

'He was there an hour ago, when I left; he is cleaning up his gun, so if you want to see him, you will find him there. I will show you

"No; I do not wish you to do it," said she, interposing. "I know the way there myself.
I only wanted to make certain of finding him." "I am sure he is there; it is all of two miles distant, and you had better let me go with you," said Ned, who did not like the idea of losing the companionship of the girl, now that

"I would prefer that you should remain here," she said, quite earnestly. "I wish to see him on very particular business, and wish no one else near. You don't suppose I would stay near

she had been so long coming.

while you are talking," said the lad, reproach fully. "No, but I shall leave Miona here until return, and, as she says you and she are ac quainted, I had hopes that you would be will

ing to remain and keep her company."
"Oh! I'll do that!" exclaimed Ned, his face glowing with delight. "I have my gun with me, and I will take the best of care of her."

"Don't be gone too long," said the young maiden, as her mother started to move away. "I will be back by noon, she replied, as she kissed her good-by, and speedily vanished in

the forest. "I only wish it was night," thought Ned, as he realized that he was alone with the on of whom he had been dreaming day and

night, ever since he had first met her. But he felt certain of several hours with her and a sense of pleasurable delight came over him as he suspected that Miona was quit

willing to spend that time in his company. Innocent and pure-minded as was Miona, and ignorant too, of the great emotion of love, back!" she was artless and unembarrassed. Ned, des pite his backwoods training, was naturally polite, his genuine goodness of heart resembling, in a great measure, the kind nature of Nick Whiffles.

"I am so sorry for mother," said the girl, as the two unconsciously walked away in the direction of the river.

"Why, what's the matter with her?" "Something dreadful—she would not tell me what—but she has done nothing but cry and pray ever since we started from home. saw the Indians scowl at her, and several of them seem to be angry about something; but she cries so much that I have been crying,

And her pretty eyes filled with tears, while Ned wanted to comfort her, and wasn't exactly certain how it should be done.

"I didn't see that anything much was the matter with her," he said. "She wasn't cry-

ing when she went by here."

"Because she has wept so much that she can not. I am glad Nick Whiffles is at home, for if she had been disappointed in seeing him I don't know what she would have done.

"If Nick can do anything in the world for her, he'll do it; I know Nick.' I can't understand how he is to help her, continued Miona, with a look of great perplexity; "for she has a good many friends among the Indians, and she is considered a

sort of queen among them. But I think it must have something to do with that white man the Indians have in the Death Lodge. "Who is he?" asked the astonished Ned. Somebody followed us in a canoe, and the Blackfeet caught him, and I suppose

they will put him to death, as they have a good many others. She keeps talking about somebody named Hugh; do you know anybody of that name?"

Ned did not, although had she said Bandman, mized it.

"Well," added Miona, with a sigh, "I suppose she will tell me some day. Here we are at the bank of the river, and yonder is my

Let us go look at it."

"You can ride in it if you choose." The boat, of a natural dusky bark color, lay out a short distance away, and the two made

cursion, so he followed her and took up the oar.
"Which way shall we go?" he asked, forgetting that she had just given him the direc-

"Across, I said; or, if you wish it, you can go up or down, but we mustn't be away when he sent the light canoe skimming swiftly over the river, which at this particular place was quite broad.

There ain't much symptoms of your appetite failing, pup," remarked the hunter, as he turned toward the cabin. "I don't think you'll ever die that way."

Miona sat in the prow of the boat, as though she was mistress of the situation, her large, lustrous eyes fixed upon Ned Hazel, who,

blushing deeply, plied the paddle with all the grace of which he was capable. Touching the opposite bank, the girl sprung lightly out, and he followed her, pausing only long enough to draw the canoe up out of the

way of the current.

The boy carried his rifle with him, as was his invariable custom, and he only wished that some huge bear or other animal would cross their path, that he might show the beautiful prattling maiden at his side how much he was villing to do for her; but no danger appeared, and he could only do his best to keep pace with

the wonderful volubility of her tongue.

Meager as was the education of Ned Hazel. he could tell from the conversation of the girl that she had acquired a great deal of knowledge, and he concluded at once that the Phantom Princess must be a personage of wonderful wisdom to have taught such a small girl.

Now and then he stole a side glance at her,

and on each occasion he was reminded of that singular, shadowy resemblance, of which we have spoken. It puzzled him greatly, but at last he fathomed the mystery.

him in the canoe. Strange that he had not that he belongs to. I love him, as much as his noticed it before!

thoughtfully beside the girl. "Ever since I can remember," she replied;

and then he attentively studied some marks but you can see I am not an Indian. Why do you ask?" "I have often wondered, since I saw you

the other day, how it was that you and your mother were in this out-of-the-way place. "So you have been thinking of me?" asked While in this miserable mood, he raised his Miona, turning her laughing face toward that

"I should think I had," replied Ned, again blushing. "I haven't thought of much else. I asked Nick all about you."

"And what did he tell you?" "He told me to keep still, and he didn't mow anything to tell me.

"I guess he don't know much about me, but he has heard of mother before. "Yes, but I couldn't get him to tell any

thing about her. Fact is, he don't seem to like to talk much about her." "Have you lived in the woods ever since you can remember?" asked the girl. 'No," was the prompt response.

born in some city, and left here by somebody."
"You don't know by whom? How strange that neither of us can tell how it is we came

to live here!" "Do you love this life?"

Miona was silent a few moments before she answered: "Yes; but sometimes, when mother has told me of the cities and countries that are all over this beautiful world, I feel a longing to go and

'So do I," said Ned, with compressed lips. "I have a kind of faint memory of things very different from these, and I will tell you some-thing, Miona, if you will keep it a secret."

"I don't intend to spend my life here. When get to be a man-

Why, you are nearly a man now!" interrupted the girl, with a laugh.
"Do you think so?" asked Ned, delighted. "Well, when I get to be a man I'm going to leave this place and see the world."

"I would do so, too, if I were you." "And, Miona, why won't you go with me?"
"Oh! I can't leave mother," said the startled

girl; "what would become of me? But I will try and coax her to go.' Ned took the hand of the girl as they walked back toward the river, and told of his dreams of what he would do when he should reach the state of manhood. She listened attentively

for several moments, and then suddenly paused. "Mother is calling me, and we must hurry

CHAPTER XIV.

A FRIEND IN NEED. NICK WHIFFLES sat in the front of his cabin,

leaning his rifle. "It don't much need it, I swa'r!" he muttered, as he drew the greased rag through the barrel, and then squinted down the shining bore, "cause only t'other day I done the same thing; but, then, as I hain't got anything better on hand, I'll do it by way of exercise He smiled to himself at his own conceit, as,

having extracted the last speck of grimy powder from the piece, he began screwing it on to the stock again.

This done, he proceeded to screw the cap upon the ramrod.
"There's nothing like having every thing in order, as my grandfather used to obsarve when

he used to larrup us boys with his cane, so as to put us in a meditative mood. "There!" he exclaimed, when every thing was finished, "I reckon she'll do. Now I'll

The pinch of powder was poured down the narrow bore, and then the bullet was rammed home. A cap was placed on the tube, and then he raised the piece as lovingly as though it were a sentient being capable of recipro-

cating his affection.
"Hello! yender is a squirrel a-settin' purty high up on that limb. Ef old Nick hasn't lost his cunning, he wouldn't want a better chance

for barking you.' The piece was brought to his shoulder, and his eye ran along the barrel for an instant, when there was a sharp, not over-loud explosion, and the tiny animal flew several inches above the limb upon which it was perched, and dropped like a chunk of wood to the

upon which he was sitting, deliberately reloaded his piece, and then walked to where the squirrel was lying. Picking it up, he turned it over several times in his hand, and smiled as he saw there was not a wound upon The unerring bullet had struck the bark directly beneath the belly of the animal, and

The hunter, without stirring from the log

sent up a shower with such violence as to fatally stun the creature, without breaking its

"We have a long time to wait; let us cross over to the other side and explore it," said the girl, stepping lightly into it.

Ned was only too happy to join in the excursion, so he followed her and take this by way of a lunch." With which he tossed it to the pup standing

at his side. As he did so, the capacious jaws of the dog opened, and it was cleverly caught between them. There was a crunching sound, and the next minute it had disappeared down his gullet.
"There ain't much symptoms of your appe-

Shagbark, lazily cropping the grass, the picture of contentment. Setting down his rifle ture of contentment. just within the door, Nick proceeded to a large, old-fashioned box in the corner, which he ppened with a rusty key that he carried about

Within were a number of bottles, a few Indian trinkets, and a bundle of clothes, that had belonged to a little child. There were the tiny shoes, the stockings, a handsome dress, apron and linen.

Nick was thoughtful, and his usually jocund face was sad and downcast. He held up the articles to the light, and examined them with the tenderness of a parent who had buried her child, and was now looking over the relics left behind. "Them garments was around Ned Hazel.

when I found him floating in Elk River, in the canoe. I s'pose some mother has sewed 'em together, and if she's living, she is still shedding tears over the boy that has never come back to her ag'in. I feel that I have done wrong in not finding the real owner of Ned. I did try, but all the time I was praying that I wouldn't l'arn any thing, and I didn't. I orter tried harder; much as I love the lad, there's somebody somewhere that's got a better It came upon him all at once. She looked claim to him than I have, and if the good Lord like the trapper Bandman, who sat next to will guide me, he shall be given back to them

own father or mother kin-but I've no right to "Have you always lived among the In- keep him in the woods, when a younker of his dians?" asked Ned, as he walked slowly and parts is sure to make his mark in the world." More than once while communing in this style, he brushed the moisture from his eyes,

> upon the linen. These marks were simply the initials "E. M." and beyond question they were the initials of the boy who was known as Ned Hazel.

Nick Whiffles possessed little, if any, book-learning; but he was able to identify these. "I s'pose they stand for the lad's name.

might mean Ed or Ned, and that's why I called him so. What M means, I can't figure. I didn't dare take any name beginning with that letter, for fear I might hit his gincoine figure-head, and his owner get on his track. So, he had such a purty pair of hazel eyes, that I called him Ned Hazel. Hello, Calamity, what is it?" he exclaimed, starting up, as though detected in some guilty thing, as his dog bounded into the cabin, with a whine. Some one coming, eh? I must keep 'em out of here.'

Nick was generally self-possessed at the most trying times, but he was greatly embarrassed at this moment. Without placing back in the box the precious articles he had been examining, he let them fall to the ground, and catching up his rifle, hurried to the outside.

"Hello!" he exclaimed, as he encountered the Phantom Princess, almost upon the very threshold, and feeling the obligations of hospi tality, he retreated a step or two, and invited

"No," said she, halting where she stood, and seating herself upon the log that he had vacated only a few minutes before; "the day is pleasant, the sun warm, and I will sit here.

Just as you please," said Nick, not a little relieved, as he seated himself beside her, but at a respectful distance; "you know my cabin is at your sarvice, and I'll do any thing in the chance to untie im." world fur ye."

"I believe it, Nick, and I have come to ask you to do the greatest service one being can do another."

'Out with it, then. And Myra Bandman then proceeded, in a deliberate and almost emotionless voice, to relate her story. My reader has already learned it, so that it need not be repeated

The hunter listened, without a word or exclamation, until she was through.

"And now," she added, in conclusion. "I will tell you what I want of you. Hugh has been condemned to death, and the only human being who can extricate him from his fate is

"You are a sort of princess," replied Nick, leaning upon his rifle, and looking down to the ground in his gravest manner; "haven't you got the power to free him?"

I could if it wasn't for one thing.

building in which he is now lying is the Death Any person who is placed there is Lodge. condemned to death already, and it is a part of the Blackfeet religion that he shall not escape. They would not loose him, even for me.

"Has any thing been tried on the critters?" "Enough to know that neither he nor I can He was the bearer of a message from Mr. Mackintosh to Woo-wol-na, our chief, and when I took the chief to the lodge, Hugh delivered it with all the impressivene at his command, and then I added my coun sel to let him go free, lest we should be visited with the vengeance of the Hudson Bay men but all produced no effect upon Woo-wol-na I had lured my husband on, and he had been captured and brought in. Coming as a prisoner, it is decided that he must die as a prisoner. Oh! how I have prayed, night and day, since then, but the most that I can do is to ge the chief to postpone his death a few days.'

"Does he know you're his wife?" 'No; I have not told him that.' "Why not?"

"It would only work ill; he would be put to death the moment they discovered that. Hugh knows it, and he has been careful to keep

the secret to himself."
"What's your ijee?" continued Nick; "do you think I kin talk Woo-wol-na into the ijee of letting him go?" No one can do that; nothing less than a

hundred armed men could do that."
"What do you think I kin do, then?"
"With the help of Heaven, you must manage to release him by means of strategy. You have a wonderful cunning in such things; you have befriended many men in distress, and I have been told that more than once you have rescued prisoners, almost at the moment o

"I don't deny I've had a good streak of luck, in years past, in that sort of business; but this 'ere thing has a harder look than any thing of the kind that I ever took hold of." Don't say, oh, my friend, that there is no

hope!"
"I hain't said that; my principle is not to give up a chap, even arter his hair has been raised, and the critters are yelling arter him. I don't give up hope till a man has gone clean

"Oh, what a relief your words are!" said Myra, rising to her feet and standing in front "Will you do what you can, Nick,

to befriend me?" "I will!" was the firm and ready reply.

CHAPTER XV.

WILL HE SUCCEED ? NICK WHIFFLES now made Myra Bandman

sit down upon the log again, while he ques tioned her freely and closely.

How was the prisoner guarded? Was there any one time more favorable than another to attempt a piece of strategy? Could the appliance of sudden, unexpected force accom plish it? Was Woo-wol-na to be frightened by any threats? Once outside the Death Lodge, how far must the prisener go before reaching the shelter of the wood? Was there any rea-son to believe that the Blackfeet suspected that the Phantom, Princess had any intention of befriending the man by action, as she had already done by word? Did any of them know that she had gone to see him? Were her movements watched? Had any of the red-skins manifested any different disposition toward. her, on account of the favorable words she had uttered? Did Miona, her daughter, know any thing of the identity of the captive? How long a respite was conceded to him?

Such, in substance, were the questions pro-

posed by the trapper, and to them he received,

in brief, the following answers: There were always three fully-armed warriors, at least, guarding the approach to the Death Lodge, and it was by the permission of these sentinels that she herself had secured admission to him, none of them knowing the meaning of her interview with him. Beyond question, the most favorable time to befriend him was at night, as the cover of darkness was an advantage not to be compensated by any thing else. A sudden dash into the lodge by several men might succeed in getting the prisoner away before the alarm could become gen eral; but several men were needed to acco plish this, and there was no time or means for procuring these.

Woo-wol-na was not to be intimidated by any threats, and all time spent in such attempts would be worse than thrown away. It by any possibility the outside of the Death Lodge could be reached by Bandman, he had in his wanderings, Charlie lit a fresh cigar, only a short distance to run across the clearing to reach the forest, when, if the night was "I shipped in the brig 'Sunrise,' on a whalto reach the forest, when, if the night was pretty dark, there was a chance of his getting ing voyage, out of Provincetown, two years after we had tied the only substitutes we had

away. It was hardly possible that any of the Blackfeet suspected the relation between Myra and her husband or that she had any real purpose of befriending him. She was so accustomed to coming and going at will that no one would suspect her errand in going up Elk river, and she was satisfied that no one was watching her movements.

But the earnest efforts of Myra to befriend the hapless captive, she had every reason to believe, had won her the dislike of a number of the villagers. Woo-wol-na himself had given unmistakable evidence of his displeasure. Miona knew nothing at all about the matter. Should Bandman remain in the power of the Blackfeet, he could not possibly escape death more than three days longer at the fur-

"Another thing," continued Nick, when these questions had all been proposed and answered: "have they got Hugh tied up?" "I am sorry to say they have; he was left free until after I saw him, and then he was

'That's good; I'm glad to hear that," replied the trapper, emphatically; and noticing the look of surprise upon the face of the lady he added, "I say it's good, because, if they've

bound hand and foot."

"I do not see how that can be done," said Myra, "for no one can remain in the lodge long enough to unfasten his bonds, without attracting the notice of the sentinels.'

Nick Whiffles smiled in his most benignant nanner and pointed to Calamity, who was seated on his haunches in front of them.

"There's the animile that's done the thing a dozen times in his lifetime. Ef it hadn't been for him. I'd gone under long ago, when I was tied hand and foot by the Sioux, and when he slipped in between a half-dozen of the varmints, at night by the camp-fire, and chawed

The face of the Phantom Princess lit up with hope.

"Can it be possible? I never dreamed of such a thing. There are so many dogs in the village that yours could pass to and fro without alarming the Blackfeet. Then, when the cords were all unfastened, Hugh could make a dash out of the door, and, favored by God, he

might escape."
"Hold on," said Nick, in whose head the scheme was beginning to take shape; "we must try and get the varmints away from the Lodge, if only for a dozen seconds; if we can't do that, I don't see the first chance of Hugh giving 'em the slip."

The face of Myra saddened again, for the words of the trapper sorely disheartened her.
"You don't see how it can be done, but I

"Then everything is arranged," said she,

brightening up again.
"No; it ain't," was the response; "arter it's all understood between us, then Hugh has got to get the hang of things; he's got to know what to do, and when to do it to the second or it's all up with us. Can you see him

"It is doubtful." "If there's any other way of doing it, it will be better. Do you know how to write?" will be better. Do you know how to write?" suddenly asked Nick, turning his head toward his companion with such an earnest expression that she smiled, as she answered:

"Certainly." "I'll get you a piece of bark, and then you must scratch on it, with a sharp stone, that the pup has come to chaw off his cords, and that the minute the animile comes out he's to foller him, and rush straight for the woodscan you do that?"

"Wal, then, I don't know but what we might as well be off, as we need all our

Nick rose to his feet, and with his rifle slung over his shoulder, started in the direction of the river, the lady and Calamity following him. He was so occupied with what she had told him, that he forgot to close the door of his cabin, and never once thought of the baby-clothes that he had left out, exposed to the view of any one who might chance to

drop in during his absence. As they walked along they kept up their converse about the all-important matter. Nick showed no impertinent curiosity about the history of Myra and her husband; his whole mind was centered upon the task he had undertaken-that of freeing Hugh Bandman from

his hapless captivity.

A general plan had already taken shape in his head, but as he meditated upon it, he saw more and more clearly the difficulties, that were so great as to be almost insurmountable. The Blackfeet were always vigilant, and the fact of Bandman being an inmate of the Death Lodge shut out all hope of further reprieve or

Nick believed it possible that he might reach the wood, but the greatest danger was then, when the alarm should occur. pursuit would be so quick and fierce, that in the moonlight discovery and recapture seemed

inevitable. This was the difficult point to be gotten ver, and it was the one which gave him such oncern, as he made his way through the wood, talking in an absent sort of way, with the hopeful, doubting, fearing woman, whose impatience constantly carried her ahead of both him and his fast-walking dog.

When the river was reached the canoe was impatiently, and then called the name of her daughter. The latter heard her, as I have shown, and instantly replied, while she and

Ned Hazel made haste to return. Soon the canoe was discerned rapidly crossing the stream, with the two in it, anxious not

to keep them in waiting.
"Ned," said Nick, as the lad stepped ashore, I shall be gone several days, and I want you to wait home for me."

"All right," was the cheery response The boat put off again, with the three in and Ned stood on the shore waving them a good-by, so long as they were in view; and then, when they disappeared from sight, he turned about and made his way toward his

(To be continued—commenced in No. 295,)

How He Made His "Pile."

BY FRANK H. CONVERSE.

SAID Charlie Davenport, "I made my 'pile' in a singular way," as after meeting for the first time in seven years, we talked over the events in our lives during that time.

And on being pressed by the present narra-tor, who had met with no such good luck

ago, with another 'unfortunate,' by the name of Sid Way.
"Well, if you've ever been on a whaling

cruise, you'll know what a bad scrape we had got into; if you haven't, take my word for it, and as 'Punch' said, by way of advice to those about to marry—'don't.'

"Of course we made up our minds to run away; green hands always do, on board a whaler, but when we touched anywhere for fresh provisions, the officers kept their weather eye open, and it was no go.

"Captain and crew were both tarred with the same brush; he was a bully and a coward, carried brass knuckles, and used them on the men at the slightest provocation; when he was drunk, he was bad, and when he was getting over it, he was worse, and yet, he was very fortunate in filling his oil casks.

"We were cruising in the Caribbean Sea, for some time, and then sailed for the 'Char leston Grounds,' which lies on the Eastern edge of the Gulf stream, in the latitude of Charleston, S. C., and it is here that sperm whales are often fallen in with.

"Sid and I had about made up our minds that we were 'in' for an eighteen months' cruise, when one evening, just before the lookout had come down from aloft, we spoke the 'Eleanor B. Conwell,' a whaler, belonging to the same owners as the 'Sunrise,' and our captain was invited to come on board; the 'Eleanor' running to wind'ard, and heaving to, as the wind was very light, with but little sea going, although a bank of cloud in the Eastward, gave promise of the blow before

"Shall I send all the men in the boat. with you, Captain C.?' asked the mate, as the old man went below, after giving orders to lower the starboard boat.

"'No,' was the ungracious answer, 'I sha'n't stay more than half an hour-looks like dirty weather 'fore morning-send those two Down East" chaps.

"In a few moments he reappeared on deck with some letters for the officers of the Eleanor,' (which vessel had been out over thirteen months) and called Mr. Marshall, the second mate, to accompany him, remarking at the same time

"'Those two Down East fellows are the only chaps that can pull an oar, on board the Sunrise," and I don't want the crew of the Eleanor" laughing at my boat's crew, who can't keep stroke, if they were to die for it. "Without daring to look at each other, Sid and I took our places in the boat, after it was lowered, and Captain C., with Mr. Marshall, jumping in, the falls were unhooked, and we rowed smoothly over the long swelling waves, till we reached the side of the 'Eleanor.

'How are you, Captain C.?' sung out the master of the vessel, from the top of the after house; 'come aboard, men and all, and drop your boat astern.

"But Captain C., probably thinking that he could 'spite' us by leaving us in the boat, sternly commanded us to stay in her.

"'And if you let her knock against the side, while I'm aboard, I'll knock your two heads together,' was his parting remark—the last one that we ever heard him make, for I haven't seen him from that day to this, added Charlie, parenthesis

It grew darker, and darker, and as the ook gave the summons to supper, the heads that had been leaning over the rail, occasionally interchanging remarks with us in the boat, were withdrawn, and as I gazed cautiously around. Sid whispered: " 'Now's our time!'

"Softly shoving away from the vessel's side, we silently dipped our oars, and pulled away for dear life, but had not taken a dozen strokes before we heard the voice of Captain C., sing-

ing out like mad.

"'Here, you young scoundrels, pull back here, or it'll be the worse for you!"

"'Couldn't think of it, Cap'n,' I answered. ""Couldn't think of it, Cap'n,' I answered from out of the darkness. 'I'm afraid you'd knock our heads together. We're going to take your boat for a little cruise. Good ing that a "streak of luck" might some day

And blast you for a mean, low-lived, saltfish eating, blow-hard of a Cope Codder! roared Sid, as a parting message—the longest speech that I ever knew him to make, and as we bent to our oars with renewed energy, a flash and report from the deck of the Eleanora followed by the explosion of a bomb lance within a few feet of the boat, proved that Capt. C. was getting mad.

Better head her to the north'ard; they could see us by the flash, and if they lower the boats to follow us they won't be so likely to overhaul us,' was my suggestion, to which acquiesced, and, stepping the mast, we set the sail, a light but steady wind drawing almost directly from astern, and were soon bounding over the long waves at a rate that effectually put an end to all danger of pursuit, the more especially as the night, which had been pleas-ant, though quite dark, began to show indica-

tions of a decided change.
"'Going to blow,' said Sid, briefly, as the wind came in fitful puffs from a bank of darkcolored clouds in the southeast, and the sea

began to be 'choppy.'
"To say that I was perfectly at ease would be to make myself out a bolder man than I am, but I knew that if we could keep our boat before the wind, or even head to the sea in case of a heavy blow, that she could be kept afloat in anything short of a hurricane, and we were so rejoiced at our escape that our present condition did not seem half as bad as it would under other circumstances.

"Sid fell asleep in the bottom of the boat as coolly as though he had been in his bunk on board the 'Sunrise.'

"I roused him up when I reckoned it was near midnight, and took my own turn at napping, but toward daybreak the gale had reached such a hight that we were obliged to take down our sail, and keep the boat before the wind, which was all we could do.

"Suddenly, as it grew lighter, I saw what I took to be a rock in mid-ocean, and, to my wonderment, all around it, for several rods as it seemed, it was as smooth as a mill pond, while outside of this charmed circle the sea was running to a terrific hight, "'' What in thunder—' began Sid, as I called

his attention to this remarkable phenomena, that lay almost directly ahead of us; and as he spoke it flashed across my mind that I had heard Rider, the ship-keeper, speak of having laid alongside of a dead sperm whale that they had killed, through a terrible gale, where their boat was hardly disturbed by the action of the waves, owing to the 'sleek' or smoothness of the sea, produced by the oozing out of the oil from the frequently punctured blubber.

"I hastily explained to him my suspicions that our supposed rock was probably a dead whale, and, as our boat was borne by a huge cresting roller into the smooth expanse of water which I have mentioned, the decidedly powerful smell that greeted our olfactory organs proved that I was right.

"'Any port in a storm—eh, Sid?' I said, as,

hauled the boat alongside the huge mass, and made fast by means of the harpoons which were lashed in the boat, which, buried in the blubber of the whale, served as standards, to which we made fast a line at the stern and one at the bow, where, to our great delight, we lay as comfortably as we would by the side of a pier in the river.

"'Well, if this don't beat all my going fishing!' was Sid's brief remark, as we sat comfortably in our boat, rising and falling with the sea, it is true, but without the slightest discomfort to ourselves, while all around the ocean was a mass of foaming breakers, the sky was of inky blackness, and the wind-well, I never heard it howl so but once before, and that was in the great hurricane of '67, when I was cast away on the Island of St. Thomas, in the brig 'Wings of the Morning.'

"The blow began to moderate about four o'clock in the afternoon, as near as we could judge, and we were talking over our chances of being picked up by a passing vessel, and the probability of our claiming the whale as our own rightful property, when Sid, who had been using his eyes more than his tongue,

"'I've been looking this fellow over pretty carefully, Charlie, and it's curious, but ain't a harpoon-thrust in him, nor bomb-lance wound, or anything of the sort, and it would take considerable many of such, before an eighty-barrel sperm would turn flukes and spout blood.

Well? I said, inquiringly. "'Ever hear tell of ambergris?' asked Sid; 'stuff that's worth more than its weight in gold, that is found in the inside of spern whales, and the accumulation of which pro duces stoppage, and kills the whale?"
"I looked at Sid, and he at me.

"'No harm to try,' he observed, sententi-ously; 'here's all the boat's cutting gear, spades, knives, and hatchet, lashed with the ances and irons; easy enough to try, while the gale is going down.'
"'But, the confounded smell!' I answered,

half laughing. "'If we find ambergris, you won't smell rotten whale, much,' was Sid's answer, and half convinced, I unlashed the sharp spades, and climbing with some difficulty upon the slippery skin of the whale, we commenced our doubtful task, which, for my own part, I considered

mere whim. "Phew! but it was tough work, and ever now and then, as one of us would get the full flavor, we would be for the moment faint and sick, yet with a sort of desperation we delved away, when, as Dick's sharp spade pushed down by a rib, an odor arose that completely overpowered the previous smell of putrefying

"'By heavens, we've struck it!' exclaimed Sid, moved out of his usual taciturnity, and with a face as pale as a sheet; he plied his spade, and with my help, a hole was made about a foot square, out of which we took a lump of pure ambergris of a pale, half-transparent, greenish color, whose odor could not be inhaled without making one faint and sick with its very sweetness.

"How much it weighed, I do not now exactly remember, but when, after drifting about two days longer, we were picked up by the cotton-loaded schooner, 'Laura Preston,' bound to Philadelphia, and landed in that port, we sold the ambergris outright to a Polish Jew, for the nice little sum of twenty-two thousand eight hundred and fifty-three dollars, I began to think that Sid Way knew what he was about, when he proposed to investigate the in-

terior of a half-putrid whale.
"There," said Charlie, drawing a long breath, "that is one reason that I don't go to sea any more, and here," he continued, turning to a pretty, blushing little woman, who announced that tea was ready, "is another, and me in my way, yet very much doubting tha

such ever would be the case. [Instances as above, of the discovery of this ingular formation, are by no means rare; and it is not many years since the "Sea Fox," a whaler belonging, I think, in Nantucket, brought into port a lump of ambergris, said to be worth \$40,000. It is used as a basis for costly perfumes, and commands a ready sale, notwithstanding its almost fabulous pric F. W. C.]

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TWENTY YEARS.

BY JOE JOT, JR.

Another log put on the fire, and fetch your cheer up here. up here,
For since you promised to obey to-night it's twenty
year: year:
It's twenty years ago, my wife, since the parson made us one,
And we've had more quarrels and things like that than any under the sun.

You're a bigger woman than I am, wife, and you rather held your own
Whenever you got your dandruff up and brought the broomstick down.
I're evacuated these premises sometimes in hasty haste
When I crossed you in a syllable—I had no time to waste

We've lived together for twenty years and fought most all the way, And I've had to be very particular of everything And if ever I'd make a mistake in grammar and call you a fool, You never failed to exhibit your grit, good wife, as

Your affectionate arm has encircled my neck full many times and oft,
But the way your hands caressed my hair was any
thing but soft; And you have bitten my ears in such a tender and

loving way
That they have almost been chawn off, I'm very sorry to say.

l always strived to be good to you, and it didn't take you long
To make me thoroughly comprehend when I was doing wrong;
The skillet would bring a presentiment that all things wasn't right,
And I'd never stop for my hat to get out of your reach and sight.

Good wife, you needn't be afraid; draw a little closer your cheer,
You know I never would hurt you; put down that shovel, my dear!
I'm willing to-night to admit that I was half in the In every fuss we have had as through life we went

I'll acknowledge half of the fault to-night-now, wife, please don't be rash,
Quit! stop! cease! for mercy sake, there goes the
table to smash!
That shove!! Oh, Lord! 1 beg your pard—my head!
there goes the light!
It was every bit my fault; ouch, where is the door!
good-night!

What a "Bohemian" Saw

BY JENNIE DAVIS BURTON.

SOMETHING very strange happened to Aleck Drew, something very distressing to Olivia

Mr. Drew was walking very briskly over a lonely country road, all his earthly equip-ments in the little bundle which hung from his stick over one shoulder, the very essence of light-heartedness someway conveyed in the merry tune he was whistling, the clear notes of which penetrated far into the surrounding All persons would not have been merry under his present circumstances, but Aleck was a philosopher as well as a genius.

He had been recently engaged as reporter upon a leading local newspaper, but a tendency to substitute imaginary sensations for actual incidents had led to a sharp reprimand from the proprietor, whereupon Mr. Drew threw up the position in disgust, and, having already overdrawn his salary, left his trunk in liquidation of a fortnight's board, and trudged out of the country town without a dollar in his pocket. His destination was another large town still some miles ahead of him, where he fancied he might turn his Bohemian talents to some account, for, in addition to his late attempt in a reportorial capacity, he had been at various intervals of his five-and-twenty years of life artist, actor, musician, lecturer, and if he had achieved no very brilliant success, he was what is called "clever" in each and every

It was within half an hour of sunset, and the sky was full of ominous, copper-colored clouds, the heavy air was portentous of brooding storm, but, notwithstanding this and the distance he had yet to traverse, Mr. Drew halted suddenly in his line of march. It was only a wildly picturesque scene which attracted his artist eye, and in a moment he had out pencils and Bristol board, and was sketching in bold outline a study for future more careful delineation. There was a turbulent little river fringed by a forest of ragged pines, through a break in which a flood of that ruddy light streamed down and ensanguined it, while bluff upon bluff rose away in the background. The artist himself was ensconced in a sheltered nook, and never observed how those lurid clouds were driving and darkening through the sky until the boisterous wind currents swept downward and caught the tops of the forest trees and lashed them desperately. All in a moment, as it were, the river seemed to be running up-stream in short, chopping waves, the intermittent gusts came harder with each succeeding one, and a sound of carriage wheels grinding the gravel rose suddenly on one of the calmer intervals. In the next an excited voice was borne upon the wind:

"Make those horses fly if you can, Brinley. Why, only think of it, man! Three years absent from my wife, and left her on our wedding-day. No wonder I can scarcely wait to get home again."

It was a strange thing that she ceased

hearing from you so suddenly."

Looking out from his perch, Aleck could distinctly see the open carriage, with its two occupants, being slowly driven up the incline which the road followed; one a young, wiry fellow, bronzed and bearded, the other a thickset, middle-aged man, who held the reins in one hand and had the other thrust beneath his

'I tell you there is some villainy at work. And by the living Lord! if I ever unearth the scoundrel who is at the bottom of it he shall be made to suffer."

"You think you will unearth him?" "Every moment I can spare from settling up her father's business shall be devoted to that end. We will have a balance-sheet drawn and close up the accounts of the firm, as you will undoubtedly wish to withdraw." "What has given you that impression, Mr.

"I think, in consideration of all this under-

hand work, you will find it expedient to do so, sir.

"Meaning, you suspect me?"

"Meaning that, exactly."
"Humph! Glad it's none of my quarrel," muttered Drew, noting the fierce looks of the two men as they faced each other. Next instant he sprung to his feet, and then dropped back weak and trembling, sick from the sight which met his eyes. Like a flash Brinley had brought his hand from beneath his coat and fired two shots; simultaneously with the movement the other threw up his arm and fell backward, half in the vehicle, half out of it, his bronzed face turned suddenly ghastly, and with a great red stain upon his forehead, and blood trickling from his hair. For a moment the unseen observer sat there, powerless to

move; in that moment the murderer jumped to the ground, and, dragging the body free of the carriage, tumbled it without ceremony down the steep bank into the river. Then he was back in the seat again, whipping his horses to a terrific speed, which carried them and him over the hill and out of sight as the clouds opened and the first burst of heavy rain came down. It acted upon Drew like a powerful restorative. Without stopping to think he stripped off his boots and coat, and, taking a short run, plunged head first down the steep, and was battling with the strong current of the foaming little river as the last lurid glare from the west was suddenly obscured, and darkness fell like a pall over all the scene.

One week later Olivia Wilder was walking her parlor up and down, her sable dress trailing over the deep, rich tints of the carpet, a flush on her cheeks and a light in her eyes, such as had not been seen there for months before. That radiant look struck a visitor who was entering unannounced with unaf-fected surprise, and held him transfixed, with a gleam leaping into his own pale eyes, gloating and exultant. She saw him as she turned

and took a few steps that way.
"Come in, Mr. Brinley. I was expecting
you. Be seated, please." With a wave of her hand she indicated a chair, and herself sunk into one opposite. You have brought the

"You will go over the accounts?" he asked. "I trust I see you retter than when I was here last, Mrs. Wilder."

"You see me in a healthier frame of mind, and I will let you explain the business to me. I find it hard to understand how my father's affairs could have become so embarrassed as

"Through unwise speculations at home and unaccountable transactions of the branch house in San Francisco; mainly due to the latter," explained Mr. Brinley, smoothly. "You will see by the entries what a draft upon our resources that enterprise proved. Pardon me; the subject, I know, is a painful one, but it is necessary it should be discussed. Don't blame me, please; I cannot alter facts."

Mrs. Wilder picked up a screen from the table to shade her face, and he could see that

her hand trembled. "It is all true?" she asked, in a low voice.

"Tell me once more—all—the worst,"
"Is it necessary to distress you by repeating it? Well, then, from the result of my private inquiries, it appears that the branch house was badly mismanaged from the first. So badly that I can account for it only by the supposition of deliberate fraud. Its close was disastrous. The credit of the house here was saved by the use of my private fortune, as I have already told you. For the rest, I have taken all possible precautions to hush every breath of scandal which may have got afloat. The loss of the 'Sea Foam' on her way to India is connected in but few minds with the recent mysterious disappearance of Mark Wilder. But for the chance recognition of him by an acquaintance among the outward bound passengers, and the fact since elicited that he sailed under an assumed name, even we might still be uncertain of his fate. As it is, all doubt is set at rest."

"In your mind," said the lady in a still, suppressed way. "But, you were always cruelly prejudiced against my husband."

Your husband was a defaulter; he betray ed his trust shamefully; worse than all he deserted you; but he is beyond the reach of earthly vengeance at the bottom of the Pa-cific. I thank heaven for it." Again the white hand holding the screen

trembled visibly.
"It was due to you that he was transferred to that position," she said, presently. "Due to

you that we were separated upon our marriage "It was. When a clerk from the house married the senior's daughter, it was no more than right that he should be admitted as a fancy." partner. That opening seemed felicitous. Do

me the justice to remember that your father's ther thin gentleman, with an ugly scar just ill-health and his unwillingness to spare you grazing his temple and plowing its way caused the separation. I have always won-dered at his sudden resolve which ended in having the ceremony performed; it would have spared you something had you remained only "What?" The hand-screen went down, and

she looked across at him with an unfathomable expression in her deep, dusk eyes.

'The disgrace of bearing that name, for one

"Is it so very great then? Must the stain of another's sin reflect upon me?"

"Not in my eyes," he cried, eagerly. "To ne you must always be purer than the angels; but it is an uncharitable world. You, blamess, would have to suffer if it knew all. It never shall know from me, but, if the time ever comes—there is one way to fling off the first taint of reproach—with the name."

He spoke hesitatingly, choosing his words carefully, impassioned, yet fearing to say too Mrs. Wilder had no desire to tempt further expression from him who had been once a rejected suitor of her own.

"The books now, if you please," she said. shortly.

He bowed and turned to bend over them "How she has changed in this brief time," he chought, exultingly. "A woman's love will never survive disgrace in its object; that stroke has told. It was horrible work, but I shall have my reward. A man might well dare perdition for her." He said:

"I have prepared a summary, which will answer our present purpose. I will leave the books for you to examine at leisure."

The summary was a startling array of figures, by which it was made evident to even an undisciplined feminine mind that Mr. Brinley had lost some twenty thousand dollars through the misfortunes of the senior and the criminality of the junior partners in the firm. that they were both gone, and she left beg-gared, how would that amount of money ever be repaid?

She turned away from inspecting the paper abruptly, and opened a leaf of the folding-doors which divided the double parlors.

'Mark, dear!" she called. At that name at the changed, tender voice in which it was spoken, Mr. Brinley looked wonderingly up. "Come here and tell me how this account tallies with yours. And tell him that wherever the merited disgrace may fall, I am, and always will be, proud of bearing your name. It is just possible the reason papa hurried our marriage was that he foresaw dimly a time when I might need a husband's protection against the diabolical scheming of such a wretch as that."

With paling face and dilating eyes the schemer sprung to his feet. "Mark, dear" had appeared and stood now by her side. She clasped her hands over his arm, and turned a scornful glance upon the baffled, frightened, doubtful villain.

"Well, sir," spoke the new-comer, sharply; "have you any thing to say for yourself?"

The other started forward excitedly.
"Who are you? Not Mark Wilder; I'll take my oath on that. This is some impostor, Mrs. Wilder, not your husband. Why, look at the man; you surely can not be deceived by

"Yes, look at me, Olivia, and answer him." "He is my husband whom you have falsely maligned, wickedly traduced."

"If you still doubt it, here are proofs, Here is the balance-sheet of my branch which was closed without any disastrous effect to the firm. Here is your last letter to me, inquiring the exact date of my return. Here also are the papers left in Olivia's charge by her father to be delivered to me. And here,' springing forward and seizing the summary, "is a proof of the contemptible weakness of your plot. This would never deceive any one out a woman, but it has not deceived my wife. My own papers have had a wetting, but you will find them authentic."

Still Brinley stared, aghast but incredu-"In Heaven's name, who are you?" he

gasped.
"I am Mark Wilder, I tell you," quite imperturbably. "If you have your own doubts still, perhaps you had better drag the river just below the bluffs, and see if you find me there. Men have escaped as imminent dan-gers as drowning with a bullet-grazed head before now, I dare say. There is the door, Mr. Brinley; I will see you elsewhere to-

morrow. "And I will see you, sir! Whoever you may be, you are no more Mark Wilder than

In his own mind he was convinced of it, but how could he brand him as an impostor without bringing about the exposure of his own guilt, while Olivia acknowledged him? How the thought galled him, after separating her from her true husband, after weaving a mesh which he thought secure about her, to be balked now by a sharper scoundrel than him-

He was at the business house betimes next morning, but his antagonist was there before No one but Holmes, the cashier, witnessed the interview.

"This an impostor!" cried Holmes, in amaze, as the resident partner broke out in violent accusation. "Why, bless you, sir; this is young Mark Wilder, no other. I ought to know. I was here when Mark came in as errand-boy, and I saw him work his own way up; ay, and I saw him married to Miss Olivia with my own eyes."

"Is all the world mad, or is it that I am?" Brinley asked himself, despairingly. "Shall I throw up the game and make off with the funds? No; I'll not be beaten so."

Too late for that had he desired it, for Holmes' eye was upon him now.

A week, two weeks passed, and Brinley's sullen brow began to clear, his despondent manner to brighten. One day he presented himself at the Wilder residence with a tightly buttoned-up person in citizen's dress by his side, and the two were admitted together.

"Tell Mrs. Wilder what you know of this person, Hart," said Mr. Brinley, triumph-

Well, ma'am, I've seen him tricked out in another sort of rig playing Othello, in this very town. I've made sure of it since I've been watching him for these three days back. Name of Drew, and it's a clear case of gammon the gent's been playing now." 'A clear case of something worse. Detect-

ive Hart, do your duty. Arrest this man for the murder of Mark Wilder. The evidence is that he is in possession of Wilder's effects, and the mysterious disappearance of the latter warrants the presumption of a murder.

"Don't trouble yourself, please," said a voice at his back. "I relieve you from carrying the burden of my identity further, Your make-up is very good, but no

Brinley wheeled. He saw a very pale, rathrough his short, curly hair. Needless to say that the arrest for murder

The little comedy was played was not made. to the end, but it had not been without an object; namely, to hold the managing partner in check until Wilder was sufficiently recovered from his wound-a serious one-to take the business in hand for himself. Holmes, of course, was a party to the affair. Mr. Brinley made a mysterious disappearance on his own acimmediately after it, and when Drew painted his successful "River Scene" it was bought at his own price, and afterward graced the drawing-room of his good friends, the Wilders.

A Kentucky Elopement.

BY RALPH RINGWOOD.

"To be sure, it warn't so much the fashion in my days for young folks to fly the track and get married on their own hook," said the old General." "But," he continued, with a sly twinkle in

his eye, "they would do sich things once in a "And I suppose, General," said I, "that it was pretty much the same story: the old peo-

ple angry for the moment, but soon calming down and receiving the erring ones back into the fold?" "Mostly so, but not always! No, not al-

ways, as a story I could tell ye would go to prove," said the old veteran—of the back-Having assured my host how great a favor he would confer by relating this bygone remi-

niscence, the old man drew up his chair, and spoke as follows: "Many a year ago, just how many I needn't say, a family by the name of Markham came cut from Virginny and settled on Bear

Grass Creek about tew miles above where the city of Louisville, in Kentucky, now stands.
"The family consisted of the father, mother, ne daughter, a fine, handsom' gal about eighteen year of age, and a son some three year older than Lucy. That was the name of

the daughter, you know, Lucy Markham.
"Edward Markham had owned considerable realth in the old State, and his children had been fetched up with every advantage in the way of education and the like, with plenty of oney to spend, fine clothes to wear, and niggers to wait on 'em.

"Such being the case, it couldn't hardly be xpected that the gal would take very kindly to the new way of living, which her father's failure in business had forced him to adopt.

"The old people and the boy, who was a fine, high-spirited fellow as one would want to see, buckled to the work of cl'arin' and breaking up ground, and getting in seed for next year's crops, but do what they would, or say while the other man was stooping before the That mouth is big enough to go on wheels. what they might, Lucy wouldn't and didn't do fireplace, kindling the faggots placed therein.

a hand's turn at anything. All she would do was to fix herself as fine as possible, and with idle hands set at the window all day and growl at the hard luck that had overtook them

"The Markhams had been in their new place for nearly two year, when some other families came out and located around, and before long thar was a store put up at the crossoads, and soon after that others came, until quite a settlement had sprung up in Bear Grass

"Among the last lot that came was a young man, and a handsome fellow he was, too, who claimed to hail from some of the big cities down East, I forget which, and as he appeared to have plenty of money, dressed in a way never seen before out there, and was powerful attentive to all the gals in the neighborhood, he soon came to be a great favorite among

"But he didn't take well with the older peo-His ways warn't like theirs, besides which he was too fond of laying around the store, idling away the time and drinking the whisky that Davis, the storekeeper, got from passing flatboats.

From the very first day when Frank Johnson, as he said his name was, came into the settlement, he took a great shine at Lucy Markham, and as that young female took no pains to hide how much she was pleased at it, they very soon came to be always together, and by and by it got whispered that they were

engaged to be married.
"About this time a great excitement arose over the loss of three or four fine horses, which a Colonel Thorn had fetched over the mountains. The animals were taken out of his stable one night, and though some of the best trailers on the border set off in pursuit, they never succeeded in running them to earth, and so

they were lost. Three weeks after this, and just when the xcitement was about dying out, two more horses were missed, and never could be found. All this time there was no one suspicioned, that is, no one about the settlement.

"It was either white men from further back in the interior, or else it was the red-skins from t'other side of the river. "Another spell of quiet ensued, no horses

being missed for nearly six months, and people began to think that they had seen the end of "During this time Frank Johnson was court

ing Lucy Markham day and night, and though the old folks were terribly opposed to it, it only sarved to make matters worse. "The brother, too, set his face against the match, and once when much angered, swore that he would slay the girl before she should marry a horse-thief. This was the first inti-

mation that any one suspected Johnson, but

the opinion having been once started, you know what the result would be. "Before night it was rumored all over the settlement that Johnson was undoubtedly the thief who had been depredating so extensively

"It was a terribly dangerous accusation to make in them days, and when, that very night, young Markham was called on by a party of settlers to state his reasons for making the charge, he was compelled to own up that he

had no grounds save his own suspicions, and so had to back down on his own words. "Johnson of course heard of it, but, strange to say, at least it was thought strange then, he

took no notice of the insult. "He was forbidden the house of the Markhams under a threat of being shot if caught on the premises, and, to all appearances, the inti-

macy between Lucy and himself ceased. But, such was not the case, by any means. Johnson was a sharp, as well as an unscrupu-lous villain, and he played his cards so well that even the vigilant brother was completely deceived.

"But the end came, or rather the exposure, for the end came some time after, when, on morning, the alarm was given that three of the finest horses in the settlement were missing, and with them the gay Mr. Frank Johnson. "But it shortly appeared that he was not the only one who failed to appear when called

that day.
"Another young man, an intimate companion of Johnson was absent, as was also Lucy Markham. You can well believe that there was considerable excitement in Bear Grass set tlement that day.
"Two companies of young men, four in one

and half a dozen in the other, were instantly assembled, one to search back into the interior, and the other to cross the river at the falls and scour the Indiana side. "Young Markham and his three companions

crossed the river, following a half-obliterated trail, it having rained very hard the night before, which they believed to be that left by the "Upon the other side the same trail was

found, and in pursuing this they soon came up-on positive proof that they were on the right "At the top of a steep bank, having just crossed a creek, they found a small piece of saddle-girth, which one of the young men re-

"The strap had broken while the horse was straining up the steep bank, and the piece had

been cut away to permit of mending the remainder. "This was enough, and with whip and spur the young regulators pressed on after the thieves

"Night was falling when from a ridge, where they halted a moment to rest their horses, one of the party discovered and pointed out a solitary cabin perched upon the side of a hill away off to their right.

The building was so far off the road that Markham doubted if the fugitives would stop there, but, wishing to be certain, he with one companion turned off to examine it, while the other two pushed on the more direct road. they were not overtaken in two hours they

"Half an hour's ride brought young Markham within a few hundred yards of the cabin, and here dismounting and securing their horses, the two advanced, cautiously, until they stood under the shadow of its overhanging roof. There was no light whatever about the building, but the sound of voices within informed the watchers that the place was inhabited "While deliberating what course to pursue.

the sharp click of steel upon flint struck their ears, and a moment after, a bright light flashed up and penetrated without through many cracks in the badly-chinked walls. "Quick as thought, Markham applied his eye to one of these, sprung back with a mut-

tered oath, and quickly cocked his rifle. "'They are there!' he whispered, hoarsely. Look!' and he gave place to his companion. "As the young man had said, the party

they were seeking were there. 'Johnson was seated upon a rickety chair, with Miss Markham resting upon his knee,

"Johnson was in high glee, and was laughing over the complete success, as he thought, that had attended his venture, but Miss Markham, who knew her brother better than either of the others, was evidently very uneasy and watchful.

"For fully five minutes young Markham did not speak, but stood leaning upon his rifle

as though in deep thought. "Presently he leaned forward, and after whispering a word in his companion's ear,

again approached the crevice in the wall. "The position of the parties within had materially changed. Miss Markham had arisen and was standing upon the further side of the fireplace. Johnson was also on his feet, and he and his companion were standing side by side in front of the fire, earnestly talking.

"The quick eye of young Markham noted the positions.

"They were in direct range, and instantly the heavy rifle was silently protruded through the opening, a quick aim taken, and before I had fully realized what were his intentions, the sharp report rung out, and the two victims were prostrate upon the floor of the ca-

"The ball had sped truly, striking Johnson fairly in the throat, passing through and into the brain of the other man, who was slightly shorter in stature than the first.

"I shall never forget the shriek that gal gave, nor her frenzy when she realized who had struck the blow. "We left the two horse-thieves where they had fallen, and carried the gal back hom

where, after a time, she recovered, and finally married well." "So," said I, "you were an eye-witness.

General, to this terrible retribution." "I had not intended to say so, for I dislike, even to this day, to admit that I was an actor in it, but it may serve to show you how differently such things were managed in those days

SIC TRANSIT GLORIA MUNDI.

from what they are now."

And now sweet summer dies;
Ah, me! to think of all the golden hours
We passed, when first to life she sprung,
And strewed our pathway with her choicest flowers
And lulled us with the magic of her tongue,
That whispered in the breeze, or louder sung
As Philomel, till every fiber swung
In rapturous pleasure known but to the young;
Such happy past remembering, who but sighs
For summer, vanishing. Too soon she dies. And now sweet summer dies:

But some say wherefore weep?
Summer returns. True, but not this, not this;
Granted, the earth may wake again
To life and be earth may wake again
To life and beauty 'neath the ardent kiss
Of yet another, which shall doubtless reign,
Lavish of fruits and flowers and blessed grain,
Now nurtured with her smile, now with her rain;
But for this summer we shall grieve in vain;
Once dead, forever dead; the days of yore,
To hearts that ache with longing, come no more.

No skies will be so bright,

At least to us, who gazed on those of June;

Beheld the west with light aflame;

Then waited for the rising of the moon,

That later like a saintly spirit came.

No fairer morns the glowing east will claim,

Nor rouse the lark to spread Aurora's fame;

What future summer days can be the same?

Of all that wait our mortal path to cheer,

What equal to the past, what half so dear? And therefore do we mourn

And therefore do we mourn
Out of our life the sweetest chapter done;
The very fairest page gone by.
There could not be a happier one
Though we are aged ere we come to lie
In death's embraces; be he far or nigh,
We always must remember, you and I,
These halcyon days departed, brief as bright—
This summer which is dying as I write.

Beat Time's Notes.

WHEN we see a man mistaking a toll-gate pole for an old-fashioned well, we think he has had more to drink than he needs.

I ALWAYS wore patches on my pants when a boy, for, between my father, and my mother, and the teacher, my pants wouldn't last long.

An astronomer says the world is to come to an end in 6,900 years. I now make this a pressing pretext when I go to settle up with a

WHENEVER I come across a snake, my first stinct is to run; my next is to run faster; the next to increase the speed; and the next is not to slack up a bit for a week.

I STILL see that people are given to blowing into shotguns with their toes on the ham-mer to see if they are loaded. The guns are charged to give them the desired information.

"JOHN, run up-stairs and see if the window s down. "I am down-stairs and the window is up."

She then made a smarter boy out of him

with her slipper. A MAN out West advertises a hair restorer which will gather up the hairs which have fallen off for years, and put them back, black your gray hairs as easily as a pair of boots. esides removing dandruff and giving you a

new set of brains.

My father spent one whole summer on a farm-gate which was a model of its kind. Two of them would have taken up a small farm. It was one of the most perfect things to climb over that you ever saw. It would give employment to two men to open it. A small engine would work it easily. I suggested to the old gentleman an improvement by placing the boards wider apart, so it would be handier to crawl through. He suggested an improvement in my manners with a shingle. It was nearly as good as a pair of slip-bars. It was so hard to open that I always went to one side and climbed the fence. He finally remodeled it and fixed it so he could drive through it without getting out by letting the tongue of the wagon strike it and knock it down, but he had to get out when through and set it up again. He afterward remodeled

BILKINS has the biggest mouth that ever a man was attached to. That mouth must be a hundred years old, although he is only thirty. When he opens it wide you can't see anything of him. He can throw himself through it merely by turning a summerset. There was not material enough to finish his head of what was left out in his mouth. It is an impossibility for him to whisper, because his voice all falls out when he opens his mouth. When he goes to sing, all the notes are whole ones, as no half or quarter notes can be made. A mouthful of victuals lasts him a week. When you see a very large vacancy coming down-street, you may knew it is he, pushing his mouth along. He can't completely close it, as there isn't leather enough in his face to allow it. He can't use anything but big words.